

New Mission News

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DECEMBER 2002



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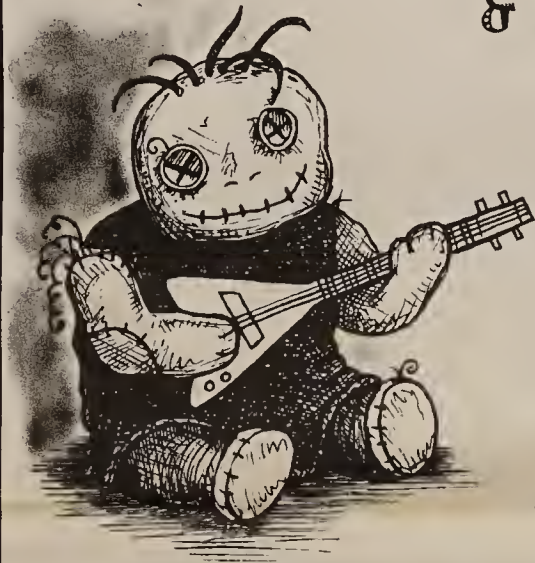
December Holiday Hours

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SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM THE EDITOR

NEW MISSION NEWS

"So this is Christmas, and what have you done?"

-John Lennon

Thank goodness for Christmas, surely the most human of holidays, the ones long remembered when New Year's Days and Election Days and even Halloweens are lost in the past; the season, as much as the day itself, when we touch base with those who are really important to us, and give what we can, after a year of taking what we can, to keep body and soul and life and family from being consumed by surrounding and overwhelming forces hostile or indifferent to our fate.

As the election has shown once again, the Mission really is an island, its politics seemingly out of step not only with the rest of the country but with the rest of the city we live in. To members of such an isolated minority, the Christmas season offers a brief respite during which to forget about the gulfs which divide us from a nation deluded into righteous bloodlust and greed, and to remember the humanity of people everywhere. Being a nobler and better thing, the spirit of Christmas will surely outlast the George Bushes, Dick Cheney's and Osama bin Ladens of the world.

PC

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

Just curious! Why did you recommend a No vote on Proposition K? This measure would have taken away the monopoly from one newspaper and give others a chance to bid on Public Notices, including the present publisher, "The San Francisco Independent". Since the Fang family took over the publishing of public notices for the City, the cost has risen 300% from around \$300,000 a year to over \$900,000 a year. Since you are in the business of afflicting the comfortable and comforting the afflicted I would think saving the City hundred of thousands of dollars would be a priority. The money could be used for better services for the afflicted. Don't you agree?

Sincerely,
Denise D'Anne

Maybe you're right, Denise, though City Controller Edward Harrington's official statement on the effect of the proposition was that the "cost to government could increase or decrease," an iffy situation that didn't promise any savings and could well result in higher costs; in any case, saving the City money these days certainly doesn't assure the afflicted of any relief. Prop K just looked to me like a hasty bit of last-minute legislation by a small faction hoping to profit by "fixing" something that wasn't broken.

PC

Dear Editor,

There is a memorial at the the public rest room consisting of flowers and candles (at 24th & Mission BART station). Who died there and why?

- jim keefer.

Jim-

Your question arrived too close to publication time for us to find the answer, so we throw it open to anyone who knows: tell us, and we'll print the story in the next issue

-PC

Dear Victor,

I've been reading the *New Mission News* for years. I was stunned to find the following vicious remarks in the November issue:

"Not only ignorant and stupid, but the bulk of us brainwashed. Serously, most of Americans are brainwashed. And usually FAT. Not to mention quite violent, and one not-so-good excuse away from killing someone. Insane, ignorant, stupid, brainwashed, FAT violent killers is what America is mostly made up of."

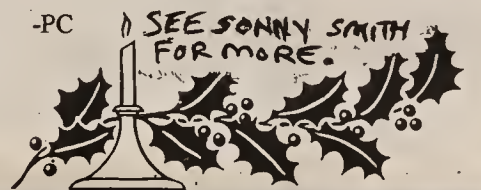
Let me tell you, speaking as a fat person who has endured ridicule, discrimination and physical violence because I am fat: That's hate speech. (Imagine printing something similar spitting on Latinos with horrible stereotypes!) And if you have such contempt for your fat readers and advertisers, consider me gone--after I first contact your ten biggest advertisers to tell them why I will no longer patronize them, either.

Sincerely,
Mara J. Math

Mara, speaking as a once-skinny person who now weighs more than I'd like to, I'm sorry Sonny's column offended you. At the same time, I expect that a readership which has been exposed to Silicon Satan should be able to recognize satirical overstatement when they see it. No harm or personal attack was intended, and I hope you won't take it the wrong way if I suggest you lighten up.

By the way, most of our faithful readers no longer address their complaints to Victor since they know he died in August.

-PC



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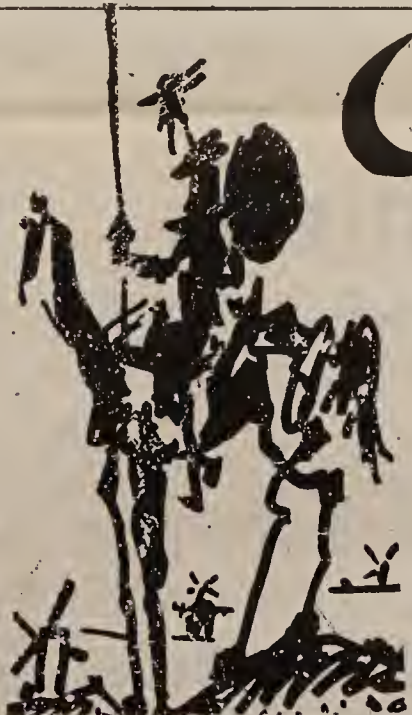
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If you do, don't you hate it when you lose or break or misplace them? Don't you wish you had another pair on hand, or maybe even several pairs, just in case something should happen to the pair you're wearing? But at \$150 to \$200 a pair, extra eyeglasses are a bit of a luxury.

Well, if you are far-sighted and have no astigmatism, you can probably put together several pairs of glasses in your exact prescription for less than twenty, or even under ten dollars apiece. I recently made myself four pairs at a total cost of less than \$25. I'll tell you how.

To those of you who are near-sighted or have astigmatism, I must apologize: the following will not work for you. But if you're far-sighted and have no astigmatism, read on.

Now, lest anyone accuse me of practicing optometry without a license, I must tell you that an eye exam and a current eyeglass prescription are necessary prerequisites. As a wearer of glasses, you may already have a copy of your eyeglass prescription. If you don't, your optometrist does, and unless it has been more than two years since your last eye exam, his office will be happy to supply you with a copy.

The prescription will have two numbers on it alongside the abbreviations O.D. and O.S., which are doctor-speak for right eye and left eye. The two numbers should each have a "+" before them; if the two numbers are the

same, you're really in luck, but they're probably different. Mine are +3.00 and +2.00.

Armed with this knowledge, I go to any one of several local discount stores or drugstores that carry "reading glasses," which are labeled with numbers ranging from +1.00 to +3.50. From the assortment I select two pairs with identical frames, one pair marked +3.00 and one pair marked +2.00. I purchase these—I have seen places in the Mission selling them for as little as three dollars each; Walgreen's has them for ten to fifteen—and take them home.

The easiest thing to do next is put on one pair or the other, and close my eyes. I wait a few seconds, then open one eye and ask myself, can I see clearly? I close both eyes again, then open the other eye. Is this one clearer than the other one? It is immediately evident that one lens works best for one of my eyes. I mark it, perhaps with a piece of tape, and repeat the procedure with the other pair of glasses. Not surprisingly, the other lens is best on the other eye with this pair. Perhaps you can guess the next step: I take out the "bad" lens from one pair and replace it with the "good" lens from the other pair, producing a pair of glasses matching my prescription. And, of course, I save the extra eyeglass frames in case the other one should someday break or need spare parts. Voilà. Quod erat demonstrandum, eh? My fellow far-sighters, this is my Christmas gift to you.

-Crypteau d'Augustille

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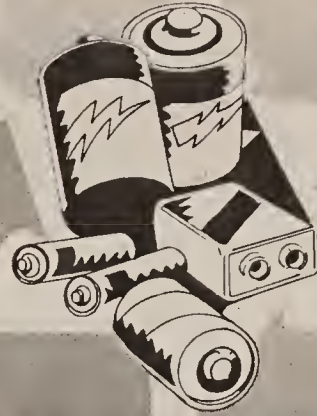
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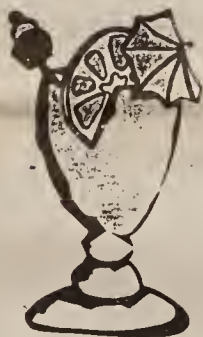
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SEASON'S GREETINGS
FROM
THE NEW MISSION NEWS



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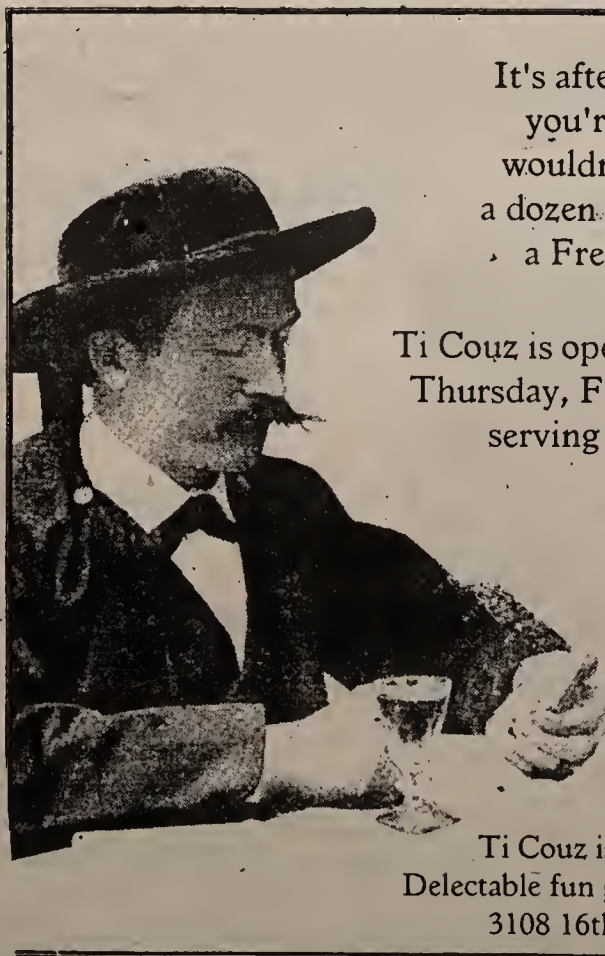
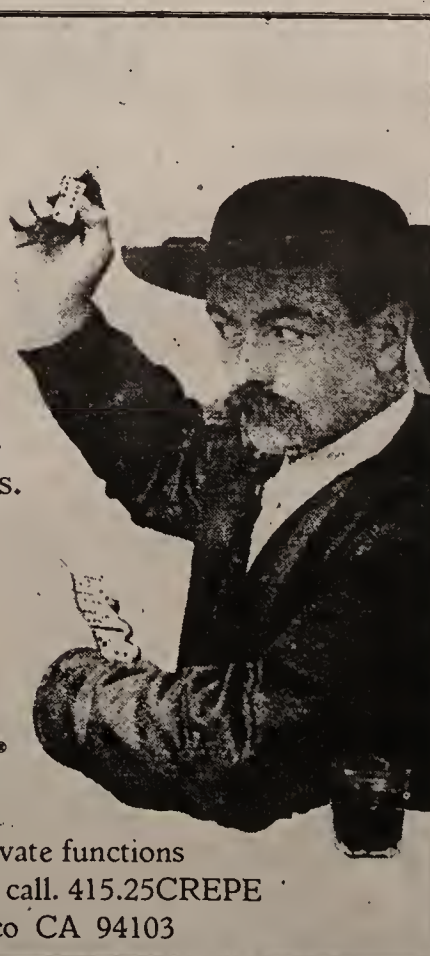
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NEIGHBORHOOD BEAT



by Paul Romo

EMOTIONAL RESCUE

Carol Schlesinger's smile is broad and has a way of making one feel on safe ground. This is fortunate, since many people meet her for the first time when they are far from the reaches of what is hopeful and secure.

Schlesinger is the Bereavement Director at Hospice by the Bay a nonprofit, free-standing agency that provides grief counseling and support for one-third of San Francisco.

Established in 1982, the facility offers services for Parental Loss, Adult Bereavement, Gay Men's Grief Support as well as Recent Loss groups.

With years of experience as a trained professional, Schlesinger speaks frankly and knowledgeably about the effects of death on the living. Dashing off a list of stages a person goes through when dealing with the loss of a loved one (shock, depression, panic, guilt...acceptance), she speaks also from personal experience, having survived the loss of both parents within two months of each other. To intensify matters, Schlesinger found herself flying out to New York, where they had lived their entire lives, and packing up the apartment they shared for 45 years.

"I think it is such an underrated loss. It's an earthquake in your life whether you're in a good or bad relationship [with your parents]; you lose all hope when they die. You're cutting them less slack because they are your parents. It puts one in touch with one's mortality."

Crediting the parental loss group she attended once every week with helping her to accept her parents' passing, she also acknowledges it as a safe haven where participants shared stories that helped her cope. "That just saved my life. It was an invaluable to me," she says. With the addition of a canine companion to her family, as well as the comfort of her partner, Susan, she continued the healing process.

It was then that she realized the need for a program of this type closer to home, and started focusing on creating one when the VA hospital she was working for closed its substance abuse unit. Her position at Hospice by the Bay began in January, 2000, after doing medical social work in 1999.

"Questions arise like, 'Who am I now?' It can be overwhelming--kids, family--people really need a place to be able to go and have their grief. Grief affects us emotionally, psychologically, spiritually and physically, as well as cognitively."

In her office, as well as out in the street, staff members and volunteers strengthen and energize Schlesinger.

There is "Babe," the 80-something-year-old, 13-year volunteer who puts together sympathy cards once a week. She addresses them and sends a packet for the

family. Like clockwork, she's been doing it every Wednesday for 13 years. "Babe" does this out of the goodness of her heart, the director says, adding, "I don't know what I would do without her."

There is Richard Monk, a bearded, smiling chaplain who administers to survivors. Bereavement intern Liz Greer ditched her office job to co-facilitate with Schlesinger, and is now working toward a Masters Degree in Family Therapy (MFT) at SF State.

Just as a life has ended, there is much to prepare for. There are sympathy cards to be signed by the team, a grief packet with a letter detailing the different services offered, counseling the family, getting them ready and making them aware of what this is about. There is the question of assessment--what degree of care does the family need? What will they will experience? Do they require more attention or not?

A team, complete with a nurse, a chaplain, a case manager, a dietician and physical homeopathic hospice aides goes out in the field as part of a routine follow-up with survivors.

"Three months later--shock subsides and they [the living] need somewhere to go. After six months another letter is sent. About this time there is an upsurge of grief, taking survivors through the gamut of emotions--some of the shock hasn't worn off. There are more and more reminders as time goes on. Grief is the most exhausting experience. You can't think clearly. It helps to know what the signs are, which is a real advantage of support groups, and to know that there are others experiencing the same thing. People think they are going nuts--things that were easy to do are hard, all of a sudden. You can't remember things. A year later a person will say, 'I can't believe it--I can't believe they are gone.' After a year, people ask, 'What am I going to do with my life? What's important to me now? What is going on? What are life values after someone is gone?' If you're going to stuff down grief, you're going to stuff down joy, too. Your body will physically shut down. It'll bite you in the ass one way or another. That's my professional assessment," Schlesinger says.

Two parental loss group programs are available per year; one in the Spring and one in the Fall. As of October 1, there were 9 people on a waiting list of 21 already interested in participating in the Spring of 2003.

"Grief is not a linear process. Even when you think you're prepared, you're not."

For program information and volunteering, contact Carol Schlesinger:

Hospice By the Bay 1540 Market St., #350 (at Van Ness) (415) 626-5900
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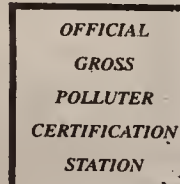
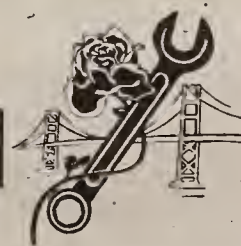
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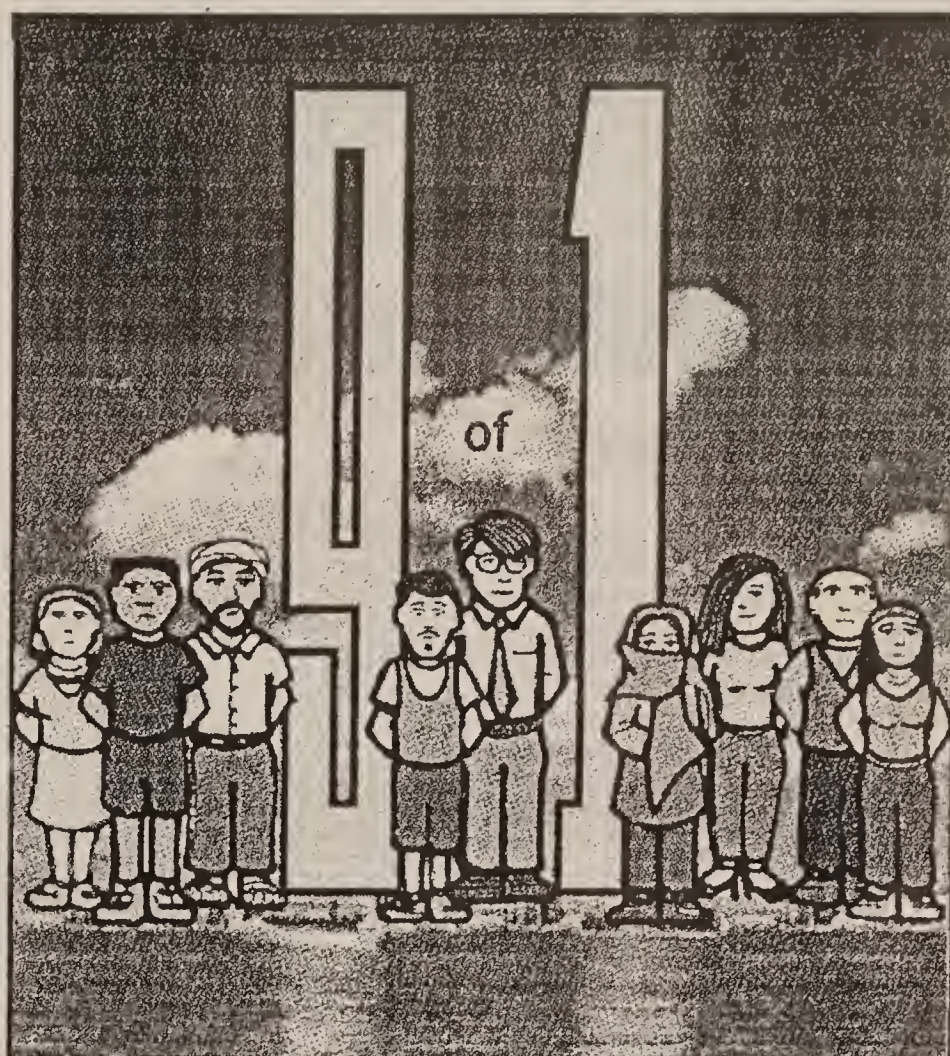
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A WINDOW TO THE WORLD BY OLIVER CHIN

Book Report

NINE OF ONE: A Window to the World

A contemporary commentary on modern times by Oliver Chin.

NINE OF ONE: A Window to the World, is the first book of a new, three-part series by talented comic artist Oliver Chin (see the cover of last month's *New Mission News*) which makes its appearance this month.

Called a "comics expert" by the *San Jose Mercury News*, Chin creates a compelling blend of fact and fiction. In *Nine of One*, a high school class from Union City grapples with the aftershocks of a catastrophe; in the wake of September 11th, they confront the words and deeds of adults who have tipped their world off its axis.

But their 11th grade history teacher steers his students forward: they themselves can be reporters seeking answers within a conflicting mix of emotions, facts, and points of view. Overcoming their initial confusion, the students fan out to interview strangers in their midst. From an increasingly multicultural community comes a spectrum of opinions: American and Native American, Afghani and Soviet, Arab and Jew, Asian and Indian, and Latino and Black.

With open minds and sharpened pencils, these teens scratch through the surface of misunderstanding to find that this story is not simple or uniform. Who is with Us and against Them? Are good and evil in the eye of the beholder? Listening to locals who share worldwide tales, these students rediscover a time-honored truth: we have to learn from history in order not to repeat it.

Through the eyes of these nine teenagers, readers will encounter diverse walks of life and uncomfortable opinions, and thereby confront the validity of their own views. Can the next generation sort out a world, growing smaller by the day, but yet more divided? Our future may well depend upon it.

Giving witness to vantage points too often ignored by the mainstream, *Nine of One* provides a nuanced, unconventional, and poignant commentary that will resonate with young adults around the world who face an array of grown-up choices. From Generation Y to their Baby Boomer parents, readers will respond to *Nine of One* and appreciate how a land of a thousand voices can find common ground.

NINE OF ONE: A Window to the World
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Oliver Chin is a veteran entertainment columnist for *Comics and Games Retailer* and reviewer for *Comics Buyers Guide*. Currently contributing comic strips to *The San Francisco Call* and *New Mission News*, he was the editorial cartoonist for *Asian Week*, and *The Harvard Crimson*. A professional in print and electronic media, he brought Anime and Manga into the American mainstream by selling 16 printings (a US industry record) and 1 million copies of *Pokémon #1* (the most since the *Death of Superman*). He is the Director of Sales & Marketing for North Atlantic Books, based in Berkeley, CA.

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OUR 35TH YEAR



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NEIGHBORHOOD BEAT (CONTINUED)

Paul Romo

Bawdy Language

The Rite Spot may never be mistaken for a burlesque joint, but behind the clunky barroom piano, Kitten on the Keys moves it a step in that direction.

In 1921 when Zez Confrey composed his novelty ragtime hit, *Kitten on the Keys*, who would have thought that the borrowed title would transform Suzanne Ramsey into a piano playing, Dr. Dean Edell worshipping, self-stimulating Vargas girl? Annie Southworth, who books the acts at the Rite Spot, says, "The piano has been through a lot over the years and it takes a certain type of piano player to appreciate it and make it sound good. Kitten on the Keys [among others] has mastered it and plays here regularly."

The adult counterpart to vaudeville, burlesque mixes music, dance, slapstick, suggestive storytelling and, in Kitten's case, a naughty version of Shirley Temple's *On the Good Ship Lolly Pop*, often accompanied by a striptease. Part of burlesque's appeal is suggestiveness, and Ramsey splashes *here-it-is* all over the place.

Southworth continues, "The Rite Spot is capable of an amazingly magical atmosphere and vibe. When it's right, it's right," which explains why Craig Ventresco made it on her list, especially when he's sitting in with the Frisky Frolics. Ventresco is undeniably one of the best ragtime guitarists on this planet, despite being ignored by many of its inhabitants (*Ghost World* and *Crumb* director Terry Zwigoff notwithstanding: Ventresco appears on the soundtracks of both movies). He takes 1920s and 30s blues, rags and stomps and effortlessly resurrects them, transporting the listener back to a place that time forgot.

Although bands can play bigger venues, it is Southworth's opinion that they are best appreciated in a place "akin to a supper club, where you can park easily, come in and have a great dinner while listening to music. It's a pretty unique situation, beside the fact that 99 per cent of our shows are free."

Settle back and sip a Highball, a Dirty Martini or a Speakeasy Ale, and be swept back to a time when drinking and cavorting were often prohibited; making them all the more alluring.

Kitten on the Keys—solo burlesque-style piano and the Frisky Frolics—20's tin pan alley—perform monthly. Check the Live Music calendar for dates. <http://ritespotcafe.com>

Rite Spot Cafe restaurant bar and live music, 2099 Folsom Street.

Mon-Thu 4:00pm- 2:00am, Fri 2:00pm- 2:00am, Sat 7:00pm- 2:00am (415) 552-6066 <http://ritespotcafe.com>

Creature Comforts

Just outside the open doorway of Ruby, a handcrafted gift and house ware cooperative, an odd blend of hot tar and scented botanical candles mingle. Considering that each of these smells contributes, in its own way, to the improvement of this area near the corner of 20th and Valencia, this is entirely fitting. Owner Laura James explains that the building next door, where she conveniently lives, is getting a new roof.

Inside the burnt orange and sienna walls of Ruby are pillows, candles, votives, jewelry, greeting cards, lanterns, plates, picture frames and Ass Roos (stylized undies), all of which are created by local artists. Five new artists have been scheduled to sell their works and a total of 50 already are doing so now.

The emphasis and sensibility toward buying and supporting local talent rings very true here: shipping strikes do not tie up incoming products, items are guaranteed unique and affordable, and the ability to help support someone you might know increases community support. "Art is our day job," reads the caption on Ruby's business card.

In 1994, the building housed a place called the Wizard of Odds. It was at this time that James began attending business workshops, and soon learned what it took to start a new business. Preparing to get things rolling, she gave her number to a painter who tipped her to the fact that 'The Wizard' was packing up. Jumping at the opportunity, she hired the painter to take care of the interior, and opened Ruby in June of 1996.

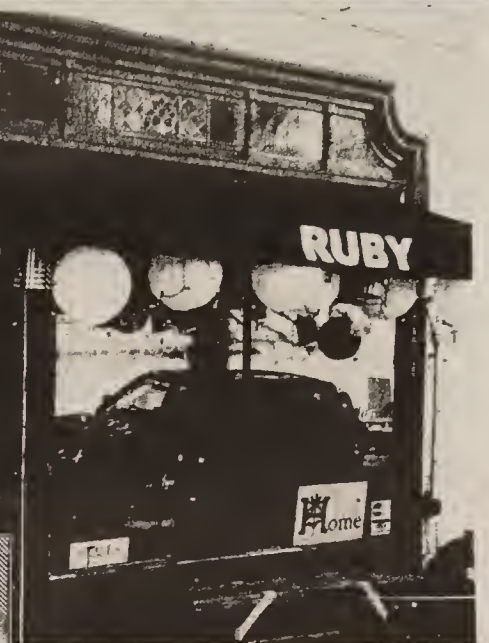
A firm supporter of mentoring, James frequently is part of gatherings where hobbyists can learn to make a living selling their work; taking the necessary step of getting a business license, as well as motivating people to start their own business. Participating in an internship before starting one's own business is greatly encouraged. "Owning a business is the best thing you can do for yourself," she emphasizes.

Very much a part of the neighborhood, she currently serves as acting President of the Mission Merchant Association, chatting easily with passing locals as Ruby, her pug-faced dog and the store's namesake, skitters around on a sidewalk bench; vying for attention. An alternative to the holiday shopping grind, Ruby fits into both budget and time-sensitive brackets.

"Anytime you can support local artists, I thank you. It all trickles down to the workers. The dot.com bust is our boom; layoffs have created new jobs here."

Ruby 3602 20th St (at Valencia) 550-8052 <http://www.rubygallery.com>

Miracle Mile Makers MISSION MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION



Please join us at the Ruby Gallery for Ruby's Customer Appreciation Party and S.L.U.G. Benefit on Friday, December 13th, starting at 7pm.

For our annual benefit we will be donating 15% of sales from that evening and the next day to a great non-profit, the San Francisco League of Urban Gardeners. (S.L.U.G.)

Enjoy cookies and drinks while shopping for that unique gift made by our Local Artists -- and support gardens in San Francisco, too!

Happy Holidays from Ruby Gallery
3602 20th Street, SF - 415 550 8052

TO JOIN MISSION MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION
CALL 979-4171

give color!
for every generation*

GAP



Kitten on the Keys & The Devilettes (Photo by GREGORY RAPIHAEL)



DECEMBER 2002

MISSION DISTRICT CALENDAR

ONGOING EVENTS

DAILY CALENDAR

MISSION VILLAGE FLEA MARKET now every Saturday and Sunday 10 am til 4 pm on Florida Street between 18th and 19th Streets. Check it out, and/or call Cellspace at 648 7562.

MEDITATE FOR FREE! Learn tools to calm the anxiety in your body. Tuesdays, 7:30 pm at Psychic Horizons, 972 Valencia @ 21st Street, free. 643 8800

IT'S A WONDERFUL DYKE December 12,13,14,15,19,20,22 @ 8:30 pm, Spanganga, 3376 19th St. @ Mission. Admission: \$12 at the door/ \$10 in advance (Advance tix sold at Mendel's, 1556 Haight St. 621-1287.

RUN AWAY WITH THE CIRCUS AND LEARN TO FLY IN THE NEW PICKLE CIRCUS' HOLIDAY PRODUCTION, "CIRCUMSTANCE" In the New Pickle Circus' holiday show, "Circumstance," a young woman who is struggling to survive in the big city is swept away by a small tribe of impoverished, underground circus performers to help save their circus. The New Pickle Circus will perform "Circumstance" at Fort Mason Center's Cowell Theater from December 18 to January 1. The tickets, ranging from \$18 to \$26, go on sale in November at the Cowell Theater Box Office, 415-345 7573.

HOW MUCH IS THAT DOGGIE IN THE WINDOW? It's time for **HOLIDAY WINDOWS** with The San Francisco SPCA. Seven days a week, through December 24th, adoptable dogs, cats, kittens and puppies from the SFSPCA will be frolicking in the windows at Anthropologie, the popular apparel, home décor and gift store on Market Street near Powell St. Station. SFSPCA staff and volunteers will be on hand to introduce the public to adoptable animals and guide people through the adoption process. For more information, call 415.522.3505 or check out our website at www.sfspca.org.

VOLUNTEERS ARE ALWAYS NEEDED at The SF/SPCA. You must first attend one orientation workshop. Upcoming workshops are Saturdays, December 7th and 14th at 243 Alabama St. For more information, please call 415-554-3087.

"SPEAK TRUTH TO POWER," Pulitzer Prize-winning photojournalist Eddie Adams' exhibition of powerful black-and-white portraits of human rights defenders at the San Francisco Main Library's Jewett Gallery, 100 Larkin Street, Civic Center, opens December 12, and will be on view through February 23, 2003.

The Marsh ongoing December events...

The Mock Café At The Marsh 1074 Valencia Street, SF.

Fridays - Sketch Comedy - Open Mic at 10 pm Featured local comics and writers performing, preceded by spoken performance open mic. (poetry, solo performance, spoken word, acoustic music) admission: \$5.

Saturdays - Comedy Open Mic from 9 - 10 pm, sign up at 7:30 pm; The Mock All-Star Comedian Showcase at 10 pm admission: \$5.

The Mock Café presents Ron Jones' **SAY RAY: A HOLIDAY MIRACLE** On Christmas Eve a San Francisco mentally disabled man called Say Ray is abducted to Mexico. In the small town of Uruapan, Say Ray is robbed of his inheritance and left alone in a graveyard. All Say Ray wants is to get home. The people of Uruapan think the stranger in their town is Jesus Christ, a Jesus Christ that sings like Elvis. It takes a heroic Mexican dentist, a San Francisco social worker and judge to pull off Ray's magical return to San Francisco. It's an amazing story, a true holiday miracle. Thurs, Dec 5 - Sat, Dec 14 at 8pm \$15 Mondays Monday Night Marsh - Stand-up comedy and performance art by both the brightest lights and dimmest bulbs in the field. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia, 8 pm, \$7.

BIZARRE BAZAAR: The Lola Gallery hosts *Bizarre Bazaar* from December 12 to December 23. This exhibition sale showcases the work of over 25 artists in a diverse range of media, including fine art, photography, craft, and fashion. 2519 Mission Street. Contact: Claire McGovern 415.401.6800 or info@lolabrown.com

ONGOING 16th Street Christmas Raffle Sale \$1.00 a ticket. For raffle tickets please call Betty Traynor at 558-82133 or email btraynor@energy-net.org Drawing will be held December 19th Proceeds will fund Christmas party for families living in North Mission SRO hotels.

GUARDSMEN CHRISTMAS TREE LOT Buy a tree and help a child. Through December 18, 2002, daily. 9 AM - 9 PM. at the Herbst Pavilion, Fort Mason, San Francisco. (415) 771-7747. The Guardsmen, established in 1947, is a San Francisco service organization consisting of 150 business and professional members devoted to advancing at-risk Bay Area youth by funding indoor and outdoor educational programs. The Guardsmen serves disadvantaged Bay Area youth through a number of educational programs and social service agencies. www.guardsmen.org.

1 SUNDAY

FORREST SUN, STACY KRAY, MICHAEL BERG, CAFE DU NORD, 2170 Market Street, 9 pm, \$7. 861-5016

DJ SEP and special guest **DJs SPLIFF SKANKIN' & I-VIER.** ELBO ROOM, 647 Valencia, \$5 552-7788.

2 MONDAY

THE MONDAY NIGHT HOOT hosted by Eric Shea, CAFE DU NORD, 2170 Market Street, 9 pm, \$5. 861-5016.

3 TUESDAY

SHIMMER KIDS, BRIAN KENNY FRESNO, CRAIG MARKEL. CAFE DU NORD, 2170 Market Street, 10 pm, \$6. 861-5016.

LOST YOUR DOG or other pet? Come to the Pet Loss Support Group with grief counselor Dr. Betty Carmack, SFSPCA, 243 Alabama, 7:30-9 pm, free. 554-3050

SOME OF THE PARTS is the debut novel by T Cooper, who appears at Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia, 7:30 pm, free. 282-9246

BAT MAKUMBA, ELBO ROOM, 647 Valencia, 9 pm, \$6. 552-7788.

4 WEDNESDAY

20 MINUTE LOOP, PINQ, THE VISIBLE MEN. Café Du Nord, 2170 Market Street, 10 pm, \$6. For more info call 861-5016.

WHAT WILL BECOME OF MOTHER EARTH? A report from Oakland mayor and former governor Jerry Brown on global environmental degradation at USF, 2130 Fulton St., Room 250, 4-5:30 pm, free. 422-5456

JUSTICE MATTERS INSTITUTE meets to discuss the current climate of electoral politics and what can be done about it. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia, 7:30 pm, free. 282-9246

DEKE DICKERSON & THE ECCOFONICS. ELBO ROOM, 647 Valencia, 9 pm, \$6. 552-7788.

5 THURSDAY

PERCUSSION CLASS with Carnaval Grand Prize Winner Loco Bloco's musical director Pedro Gomez at Cellspace, 2050 Bryant, 6-7:30 pm, \$7 adults, 12-17 free. 626-5222 ext. 30

6 FRIDAY

MINGUS AMUNGUS, under the direction of Miles Perkins, plus DJ DNA DAN. ELBO ROOM, 647 Valencia, 10 pm, \$8. 552-7788

TOY and CLOTHING SALE at Grace Fellowship Community Church, 3265 16th Street (betw. Dolores & Guerrero), 6:30-8:30 pm. For information call Pam Chao at 703-6096. Proceeds go to those in need.

LATIN JAZZ Concert: Pepe Jacobo and his Student Drum Ensemble, Ken Rosen and the Teen Jazz Band Caliente 2002. Mission Presbyterian Church, 3261 23rd St. (corner of 23rd & Capp St.) 7:00 p.m. Tickets: \$10/Adults \$5/Seniors and Children. Proceeds go to Manos Unidas Community Center Afterschool Program

Benefit for MS featuring **GIANT VALUE, STARA NOVA, MOORE BROTHERS & BART DAVENPORT,** Cafe Du Nord, 2170 Market St, \$10. 861-5016

BAY AREA RADICAL WOMEN present Marta Hernandez, feminist organizer and co-founder of the Workers and Peasants School, discussing the impact of civil war and "free trade" policies on women in El Salvador, at New Valencia Hall, 1908 Mission Street, 8 pm. Salvadoran dinner served at 6:30 pm for an \$8 donation. For more information, call 864-1278.

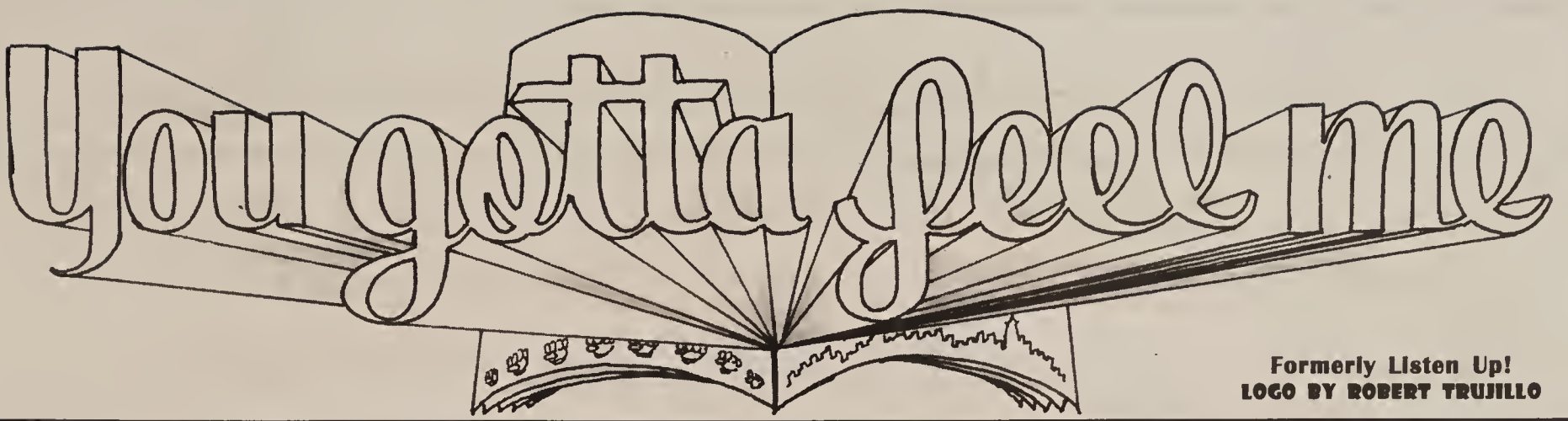
LIVING LIKE WEASELS and Other Solo Dances by Anne Blumenthal, with Guest Choreographers Kim Epifano, Krissy Keefer, Mercy Sidbury and Susan Van Pelt and the ABD Ensemble, **DANCE MISSION THEATRE,** 3316 24th St. (at Mission Street), 8:00 pm, tickets \$16 in advance at Modern Times Books, 888 Valencia (at 19th Street) and \$18 at the theater. For reservations call 415 273-4633

7 SATURDAY

LIVING LIKE WEASELS See 6 Friday

FAMILY ART WORKSHOP: Families use a variety of media to explore different art themes. Ages 3 ½ to 12 with accompanying adult at De Young Art Center, 2501 Irving at 26th, 2 pm, free; \$5 materials fee for non-members.

DANCE-ALONG NUTCRACKER is performed by the SF Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 701 Mission, 2:30 & 7 pm, \$12-\$40. 255-1355



Formerly Listen Up!
LOGO BY ROBERT TRUJILLO

VOLUME 6 NUMBER 1

Fall/Winter 2002

FREE

"Keep me away from the wisdom which does not cry, the philosophy which does not laugh and the greatness which does not bow before children."-Kahlil Gibran (The Prophet)



THE VOICE OF MISSION YOUTH... *Brought to you by HOMEY*

Homies Organizing the Mission to Empower Youth (HOMEY) is a non profit organization dedicated to preventing violence in the Mission district. By providing educational, economic, cultural, spiritual and intervention programs, we address the root causes of violence to build sustainable, healthy communities.

HOMEY's Education and Media program serves as a forum for youth ideas within the community through violence prevention workshops and the student publication *You Gotta Feel Me*, formerly known as *Listen Up!* HOMEY works in high schools in the Mission district, conducting holistic health workshops. Students who participate in the workshops create reflections in response to the discussions, which are published in *You Gotta Feel Me*. This semester we worked with Ms. Hamilton's class at the International Studies Academy (ISA) facilitating a workshop on the "Art of Resistance". At Mission High School we worked with Ms. Lowre's class exploring "How Our Struggles Connect". HOMEY also worked with Mission High's Peer Resource leadership group discussing the mass media's impact on environmental and public health.

You Gotta Feel Me is a collage of the voices, struggles, emotions, hopes, opinions, and expressions of the exceptional young individuals that contributed so much to each workshop. These are their words and visions.

HOMEY is made possible by generous grants from the Levi Strauss Foundation, The California Wellness Foundation, the Consumers Protection Foundation, and the Tides Foundation.

THOUGHTS ON GLOBALIZATION

After watching the documentary "Global Village or Global Pillage" students contemplate: Why the general public is unaware or misinformed about trans-national companies and corporations that set up factories and sweatshops in other countries and destroy the environment, mistreating the workers and indigenous people, fueling American mass consumption.

"They don't show this in the news because they don't want to have people up in their office and people complaining and claiming for their thing, and have people protesting about it and give up some of the money and have a bad reputation."
-Carolina Valencia

"They don't want the people to hear because the people will go on strike."
-Santiago Beltran

"The government won't let people hear about it because they would make it stop and if that happens, the big companies that make the clothes would lose money."
-Luis

"It is not convenient for the people of the USA and nobody claims it."
-Hector

"People don't want to tell the truth because they don't want to lose their job. Some people know about it."
-Marcel King

"Current media monopoly and propaganda use commercials and so-on to advertise certain products just to make money, that's what it's basically about. Most commercials do tell the truth but not the whole truth. They are just looking for publicity and money. But people have to be smart enough not to accept it and go beyond it."
-Nneka Scott

CONSUMER

Eat, eat, eat.

Bite, chew, swallow.

We cry with poison.

Deadly lead in my cup and I swallow it easy as candy.
If killing yourself is a sin and you go to hell for committing suicide, guess what?
We are all damned.

With our own ignorance we decrease time.

Oh well, I like the taste.

Too bad we can't hear ourselves.



Graphic By: Pamela Piedad

STUDENT SOLUTIONS TO LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS

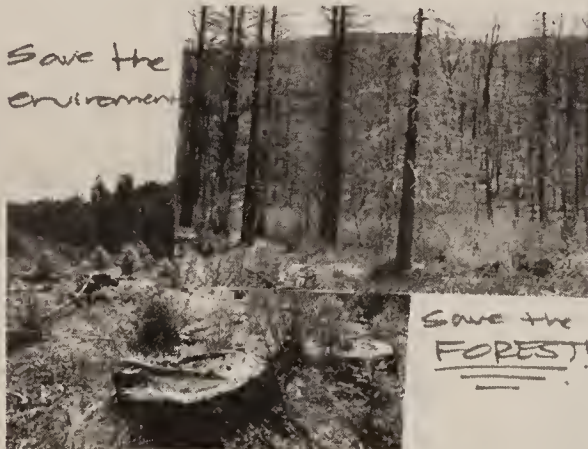
What is the Problem? People in the Richmond area are getting sick and being contaminated and polluted by toxic dumps, oil refineries, and abandoned shipyards. The different chemical mix to create a greater threat to the people. Many People are dying of cancer because of this." "And how many peoples' generations from low- income has impacted the health of the people and it only is near people of color and low income places!

What is the Solution? They should protest against the plants, shut the places down and help the people with the health problems and build better homes for the people living around there. Short term would be to provide adequate health care to the people. A long term solution would be to provide means to lower the pollution level.

What do you Propose? I would tell other people about it and maybe we could do more things to help the people with their problems. Make a stand, pass out flyers, giving out information. I have other issues to deal with in my own community as it is.

Your Message: I think the government should think about the people and how the pollution is killing everyone around here and they shut down these places and worry about

peoples' life. Let's not take it any more. Everyone should be aware of their own problems and do something about it.
-Jolene Cruz, Reynaldo Marquez, & Melvin



Graphic By: Khrista Hernandez

to work. Stickers, posters, big colorful billboards, the whole nine yards.

Your Message: My message is this: You are being lied to. You know this. Your world, and your life is at risk. Your are allowing this. You are being mislead. You care more about what you wear than your overall health. And if this isn't you, it's someone you care about. If you don't care, why live?
-Drisilla Hebert

"LET'S NOT TAKE IT ANY MORE"

What is the Problem? Some corporation wants to build a power plant on Potrero Hill, which will emit ammonia into our atmosphere and pollute our drinking water.

What is the Solution? Well, obviously our communities need to take notice of the abuse and environmental racism occurring. I know that it will not be easy, but people really need to wake up.

What do you Propose? I propose mass advertising. That "Truth" (campaign) seems

What is the Problem? Farmers are getting underpaid.

What is the Solution? The solution is to go on strike.

What do you Propose? I think we should not be taken for granted and to stop working for the white man until they treat us like we're something.

Your Message: We shouldn't be underestimated and we should have equal rights.
-Gianna Le

WAKE UP!

I think that it is up to the low-income urban residents to change our lives. We cannot trust corporate America. As we already know from the lies continually given to us by "our" government officials. As long as we condone this onslaught of propaganda and commercialism, we cannot begin to ensure that our children will be able to eat organic foods at affordable prices. As long as we allow the bourgeoisie to tell

AS LONG AS WE ALLOW THE MEDIA TO TELL US WHO TO HATE AND WHAT TO BUY, WE WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO SET OUR OWN STANDARDS

us how we should live, and as long as we allow the media to tell us who to hate and what to buy, we will never be able to set our own standards. Turn off your TV. Take off your \$250 Nikes. Open a book. Look at your environment. Solve the consumer problem within yourself. And take a good look at your friends.

-Drisilla Hebert

EMCEES, CONSIDER THIS:

The art form of rap allows the rappers to drop knowledge on others, informing them about what's going on, but in a way that will reach others. -Nzinga Mpenda

When rappers use rap in a positive way, it helps make positive social change. Consider this: rappers use improper English and rap about money, hoes, and bling bling. So when you go to socialize with youth, anyone from 9-25 years old, you going to get straight ebonics and talk of being in the music business. If rappers rapped about education and safe neighborhoods, it would make a great social change.
-LaToya Johnson

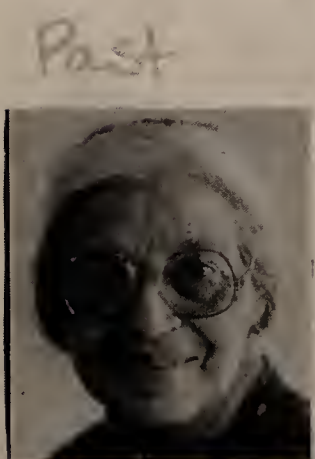
Drawing By: Michael Ross

MI GENTE

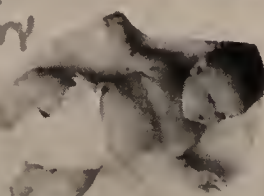
To be told that your people are being mistreated is very disappointing because I know that Mi gente built this place. If we went on strike and all Latinos stoped working, I am sure that they would appreciate us more, and if they don't, their money-maker, us the gente, won't be there.
-Brenda Cervantes



Graphic By: Nzinga Mpenda



History has already been made. History can be made... but you have to do what you gotta do, so they can do what needs to be done.



WHAT IS STYLE ?

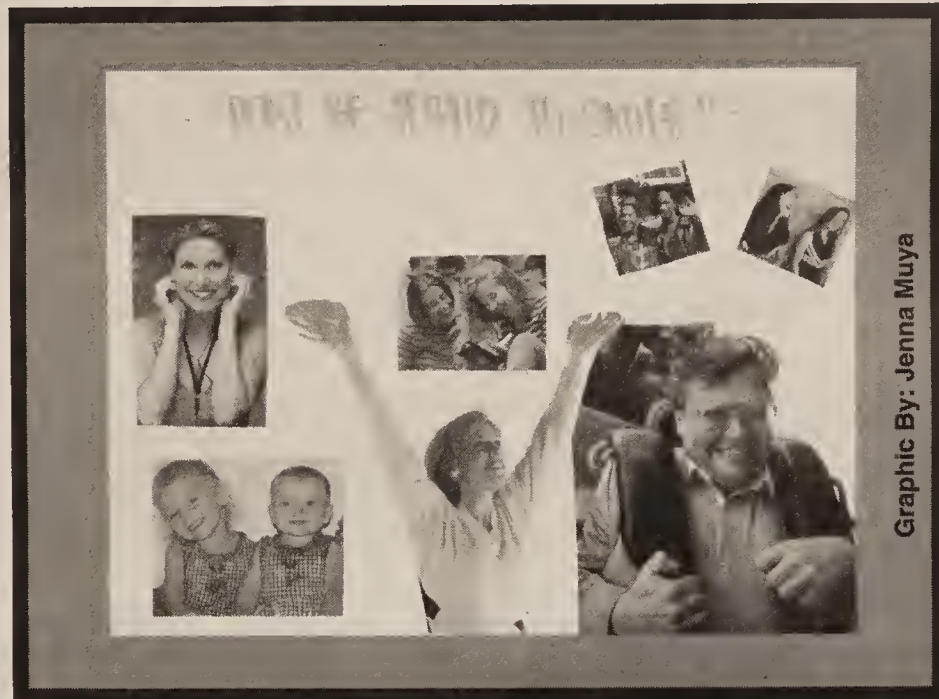
Does media have the power to control our fashion trends? Does having the right look or the right style equal happiness?

Many people depend on media for their style. We look at celebrities and see what they wear and try to picture that on us. But other people dress in what they think looks good on them. They usually want and try to match their clothing. If we didn't have media, people would probably be confused about a lot of things. The media and celebrities give us the main idea on everything.

-Anonymous

You can express yourself by only doing the things you like. Also, even though I am one of those people that likes to be by myself, and do the things I want, wear the clothes I want: talking about how people dress, made me realize that there are a lot of people that just care about how they dress and how they look. They don't look around them to see that there are too many people that don't even have a jacket to wear when I is cold at night. I also learned that we buy clothes at more expensive prices than what the people who make the clothes get paid.

-Anonymous



Media advertisements are brainwashing my generation, and this is not healthy. That is why I've changed from buying expensive clothes all the time to re-wearing clothes. I think that it would be interesting to have a community make their own clothes instead of buying expensive clothes that were made by people who were paid poor wages to make them. That is exploitation. -Vicente B. Nalam

"THAT'S LIKE THE WAY
YOU COOK YOUR
CHICKEN"

I approach certain situations with different tactics, as well as other people in this world whether its linguistic, interpersonal, spatial, etc. Because that's who you know you are, and that's like the way you cook your chicken (fried or baked). Also the way we dress is based on a favoritism and how unique you want to be as a person. It's like you don't eat candy because everybody does, but because it satisfies your craving in your stomach or taste buds.

-Justin Gordon

BREAKING THE CYCLE OF POLLUTION

The way that I can break the cycle of pollution is watching what I throw away for the environment's survival-

Like reading the bible
Keeping me mentally stable,
Healthy eating can keep me physically able.
My body's composition relies on the acquisitions of nutrients that it absorbs into the system.

Reynaldo Marquez

"I will and I have been using paper plates and plastic forks and I wash the forks to save us money and help the Earth.

I don't use the microwave any more and I will recycle my cans and bottles and keep my neighborhood clean."

Athena Snyder

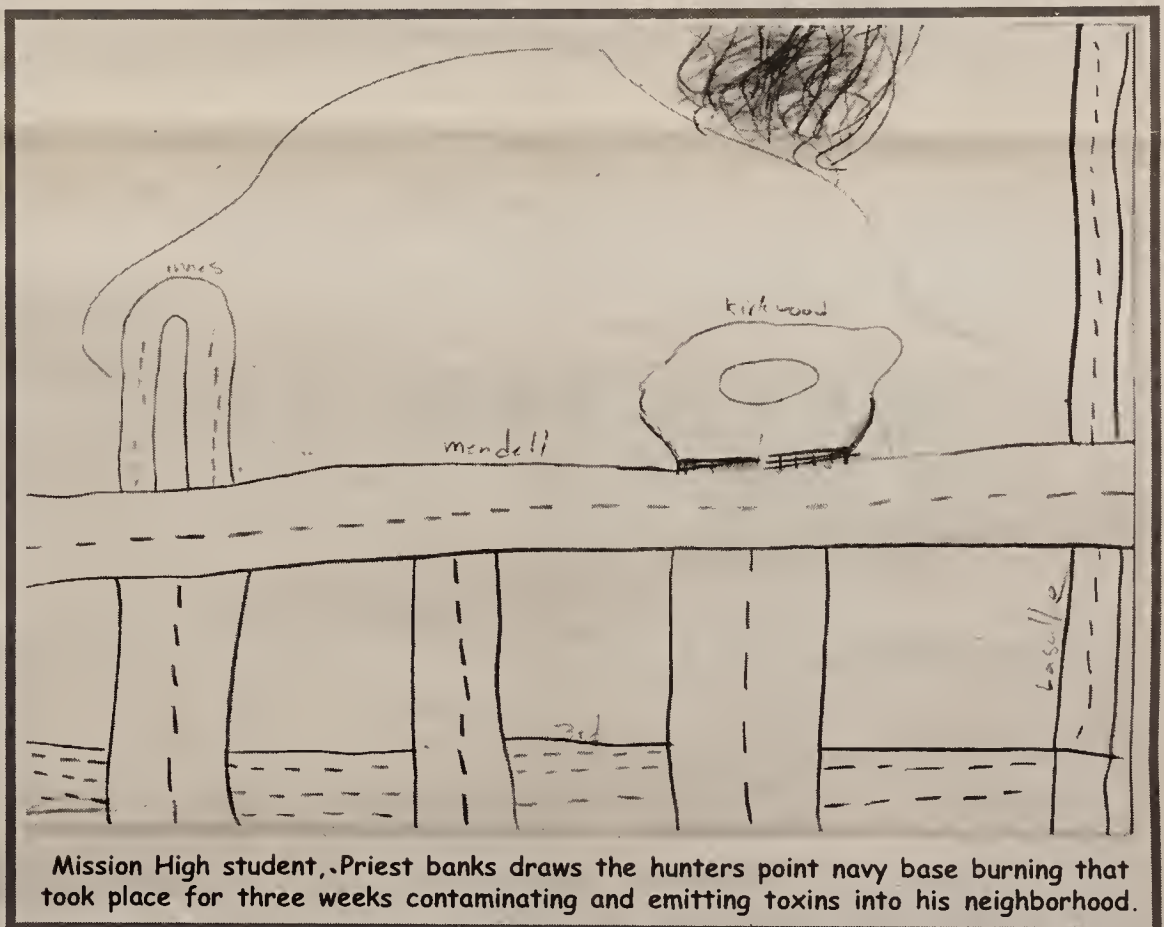
"Not buying foods with pesticides
Don't throw away or waste the food we buy
Grow our own fruits and vegetables in out backyards without pesticides!!!!!"

Sofia Franco

We can create laws to protect the environment, educate the kids, and create more organizations to keep some check of the companies.

Jason Lao

Ride your bike, research alternative energy, compost fruits and vegetables, bring your own bag to the store, don't buy styrofoam, turn off the lights when you leave, take public transportation, dry laundry in the sun, use warm clothes and blankets instead of the heater, print on both sides of the paper, fix broken things instead of buying new ones. Every time we buy something, we are telling the company that makes that product that they should make another one. If we don't buy harmful products, companies will have to think about our health and the environment if they want to stay in business. Try one thing on this list today- they are all easy to do and make a big difference. Save The Planet- from HOMEY



BOOKS YOU SHOULD DEFINITELY READ

Always Runningby Luis Rodriguez

Assataby Assata Shakur

Earth Odysseyby Mark Hertsgaard

We Make the Road by Walking

by Myles Horton and Paolo Friere

Bible of the Oppressed by Elsa Tamez

A People's History of the United States

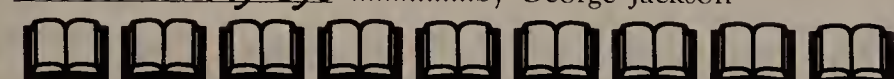
by Howard Zinn

Four Skinny Treesby Sandra Cisneros

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings

by Maya Angelou

Blood in My Eyeby George Jackson



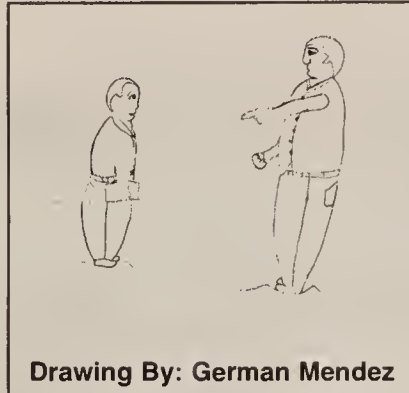
HOW DO WE ACHIEVE POSITIVE SOCIAL CHANGE?

ISA Youth examine the meaning of positive social change...

Something in society I think should change is the way that people treat each other. Just because you look or dress differently, people will pick on you. They don't know or want to know anything about you, they just want to make themselves look good by picking on someone. I also think people should change the way they treat other races. Why are Latinos killing Latinos just because of a color "red" or "blue". Its stupid and police let this happen so we can try to kill off our own race. Makes no sense, does it? We're all the same down inside. **-Anonymous**

Something that changes society for the good is positive social change. The way to achieve this is by setting an

example and having people support you, because without support, you can't achieve much. **-William Molina**



Drawing By: German Mendez

Women getting the right to vote around the world is positive social change. We can also achieve positive social change by working the new plan. **-Ray Atkins**

Social change is when everybody has won their freedom like when slavery ended for the blacks. They won through fighting for their rights and taking a stand without backing out. **-Eloida Sunga**

Mission Youth ponder If there are alternatives to money

If you wanted to, you could hunt for your own food, you could grow your own food, build your own house, live in the woods, sterilize your own water, have no luxuries, but no one really want to do that, and trading can only get you so far. In a sense, paying money is a form of trading. Imagine trading to pay the cable bill, hah! what about the phone bill, water, electricity bills. There are alternatives to money, but they stink! If you didn't pay money and traded stuff to see a movie, how would the people that worked on the movie get paid?

-Richard Woolbert

One alternative to money is trading. For example: when people have



Graphic By: Zelka Lazic

wheat, they can trade with other people who have fruit. Another alternative to money is doing for yourself like growing food.

-Amani Swalim

If I had a coat and Ms. Basila had a sandwich and I was hungry and

Mz. Basila was cold, I would trade Ms. Basila my coat for her sandwich. I would call trading. Another alternative is recycling **-Molly Corigan Franklin**

Make your own business. Then I would trade things with people. Make your own clothes and then trade them for food or water.

-Steve



People
VS
Health

Graphic By: Gerber

Investing in organic farms can really make a difference. It takes money but time and dedication as well. It is very important that people in cities take part in the Organic Food Movement. Living in cities puts people at risk for more contamination and pollution. Why not eat healthy food? We need to dedicate ourselves to cleansing our bodies from the inside by eating organic food and using organic products. **-Charon Wright**

Although I don't abstain from an unhealthy nutrition I take care of myself and doing well is my mission. Looking after my physical being, my body is my temple while keeping poise in the mental. Not taking medicine, I keep it natural, not fictional, It's all factual. I live in reality and avoid abnormalities concentrating and keeping sanity. I excel, one and only, me and myself freeing my mind from a mental cell. **-Reynaldo Marquez**

WIN CASH PRIZES

HOMEY STREET GRAPHIX IS HOLDING AN ART CONTEST

WE ARE LOOKING FOR YOUNG ARTISTS TO HELP US PROMOTE POSITIVE MESSAGES AND CULTURAL AWARENESS BY DISPLAYING THEIR ART ON HOMEY T-SHIRTS AND POSTERS.

WE ARE OFFERING \$100, \$50, AND \$25 TO THE 1ST, 2ND, AND 3RD PLACE WINNERS

YOU'RE ART WORK WILL BECOME OWNERSHIP OF HOMEY AND WILL BE USED TO CREATE THE NEW HOMEY STREET GRAPHIX T-SHIRT LINE.

THE FINAL DATE TO SUBMIT ART WORK IS DECEMBER 20TH
 CONTEST WINNERS WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN THE JANUARY ISSUE OF THE NEW MISSION NEWS.

PLEASE SUBMIT ART WORK BY E-MAIL, MAIL, OR DROP OFF AT OUR OFFICE

ADDRESS: HOMEY

1300 POTRERO

SF, CA 94110

EMAIL: HOMEYSF@EARTHLINK.NET

PHONE: (415) 863-1100

WEB: www.homeysf.org

Get involved the SF Community, Go to a Meeting, talk to a doctor or counselor who understands! Some groups even offer jobs and training for young people.

Loco Bloco Youth Percussion Troupe:	626-5223	LYRIC (Empowering LGBTQ youth):	703-6150
Center For Young Women's Development:	345-0260	New Generations Health Clinic:	502-8336
www.cywd.org		Youth Speaks (spoken word group):	255-9035
Health Initiatives For Youth:	274-1970	www.youthspeaks.org	
www.hify.org		Horizons Unlimited DJ Project:	487-6700
SF Women Against Rape (crisis line & support):	647-7273	Youth Making a Change (Youth Organizing):	239-0161
		Youthline (counselors/ jobs/etc.):	1-888-977-3399



MISSION CALENDAR



BRASS MONKEY BRASS BAND plus
DJ ASPECT. ELBO ROOM, 647
Valencia, 10 pm, \$8. 552-7788.

HI-GLAM PACHANGA (party) &
ART SALE, Galería de la Raza, 2857 24th
St. @ Bryant, 7-10 pm Cost: Pachanga
tix: \$15-\$35 sliding scale. Info:826-8009.

8 SUNDAY

Book Fair Against Warfare starts at 11
am at New College, 777 Valencia. 336-
5034

SF BICYCLE COALITION'S
WINTERFEST 2002: Free food & drink,
live music, entertainment, and a huge live
and silent auction featuring unique bikes,
tricky gear & much more. SOMArts
Cultural Center, 934 Brannan at 8th, 6-11
pm, free to current SFBC members.

The Bach Delegates present a program of
Baroque and Renaissance chamber music
at the Noe Valcy Ministry Sanctuary, 1021
Sanchez, 4 pm, \$8-\$12. 648-5236

Parents, Families and Friends of
Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) joins with
the Lesbian/Gay Chorus of SF for a
musical event. You'll have a gay ol' time.
St Francis Lutheran Church, 152 Church
St. (at Market), 3 pm, free. 226-1942

Watchword Benefit ZMRZLINA,
SONNY SMITH, EBB & FLOW,
readings by ISHLE YI PARK MAW
SHEIN WIN, STEPHANIE YOUNG.
Café Du Nord, 2170 Market St, 7:00pm,
\$15/Sliding Scale. 861-5016

9 MONDAY

ALICE PEACOCK, MIA DOI TODD,
CAFE DU NORD, 2170 Market Street, 10
pm, \$7. 861-5016

THE RICHMOND / ERMET AIDS
FOUNDATION PRESENTS
Help is on the Way for the Holidays IV,
AN ALL-STAR BENEFIT CONCERT
benefiting Women and Children with
HIV. This one-night-only extravaganza is
at the Herbst Theater, 401 Van Ness
Avenue. There is a pre-show Silent
Auction 6:00 - 7:30 pm. Performance
begins at 7:30 pm. Tickets for the show
only are \$ 35, \$50 & \$75, call 273 - 1620.

12 THURSDAY

ERICA LOPEZ HAD IT ALL and
threw it all away. Come listen to her old-
lady stories. Modern Times Bookstore,
888 Valencia, 7:30 pm, free. 282-9246

CANYON, BART DAVENPORT,
SNOW PARK, Café Du Nord, 2170
Market Street, 10 pm, \$6. 861-5016

VIVENDO DE PAO, ELBO ROOM, 647
Valencia, 9 pm, \$6. 552-7788.

FREE DAY AT LEGION OF HONOR,
9:30 am 'til 8:45 pm.; see "Max Ernst:
Surrealism in Artist's Books"

MOTION GRAPHICS GALORE
"Decomposed Motion": a 5 minute
extravaganza shot in the studio complete
with disembodied teeth, a Flashing
spinning homage to Muybridge, Marey
and Edgerton. SADISTIC SEAWEED,"
Toxic revenge upon the unsuspecting, and
our handmade, hand painted film
"Chromatic Reveries" Also several
individual shorts plus a phenakistoscope
installation.

ARTISTS TELEVISION ACCESS
992 Valencia
8 pm, \$5. 824-3890 or www.atasite.org

Breast Cancer and the Bay Area - A
distinguished panel of experts and
community advocates including Karen
Goodson Pierce of Bayview Hunters Point
Community Advocates, Janice Barlow of
Marin Breast Cancer Watch and Nancy
Evans of The Breast Cancer Fund will
discuss breast cancer, the environment
and our local communities. Ruth Rosen
of the San Francisco Chronicle will
moderate.
SF Main Library, Lower Level, Koret
Auditorium, 6:30 pm, free.

11 WEDNESDAY

Children's Holiday Party, featuring
light refreshments, fun and a short craft
activity. Mission Branch Library, 300
Bartlett, 6:30 pm, free.

DARK SPARKLE DJs take you to the
dark side of the 70's and 80's. \$3 before 11
and \$5 after. Café Du Nord, 2170 Market
Street, 10 pm. 861-5016.

Outlaw Honky-Tonk RED MEAT,
ELBO ROOM, 647 Valencia, 9 pm, \$6.
552-7788.

10 TUESDAY

20 MINUTE LOOP, JAMES COMBS
Café Du Nord, 2170 Market Street, 10
pm, \$6. 861-5016.

FITO REYNOSO con RITMO y
ARMONIA plus DJ CARLITO'S WAY
ELBO ROOM, 647 Valencia, 10 pm, \$7
552-7788.

PERCUSSION CLASS with Carnaval
Grand Prize Winner Loco Bloco's musical
director Pedro Gomez at Cellspace, 2050
Bryant, 65-7:30 pm, \$7 adults, 12-17 free.
626-5222 ext. 30

PALENQUE TRADITIONAL CUBAN
MUSIC ¿OYEME CHICO, TU ERES
CUBANO? Peña Pachamama - 1630
Powell @ Union St, 7:30pm - 10:00pm

Literary Tangos - Back by popular
demand! An evening of Argentine tango
dancing performed by Chelsea Eng and
Count Glover, with readings by Terence
Clarke of tango lyrics and literature of
Jorge Borges, Horacio Ferrer, Luis
George Brujo and more. Main Library,
Lower Level, Koret Auditorium, 6:00 -
7:30 pm, free.

13 FRIDAY

JONESTOWN MASSACRE, DEAD
MEADOW, VOLTA SOUND. Café Du
Nord, 2170 Market Street, 10 pm, \$8.
861-5016.

A Totally Different Holiday Experience:
"Imagination" Dance Show, Dec. 13th
and 14th, Metronome Ballroom, 1830 17th
Street, 7:30 pm. 252-9000

Handel's Messiah, performed by the
Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra
tonight at Herbst Theatre, Van Ness and
McAllister Streets, 8 pm. Tickets are
available by calling City Box Office at
(415) 392-4400 or on-line at
www.philharmonia.org.

THE MOTET Plus DJ MOTION
POTION, ELBO ROOM, 647 Valencia,
10 pm, \$10 552-7788.

Ruby's Customer Appreciation Party.
For our annual benefit we will be donating
15% of sales from that evening and the
next day to a great non-profit, The San
Francisco League of Urban Gardeners or
S.L.U.G. Ruby Gallery, 3602 20th St.,
7pm. 550 8052

14 SATURDAY

KPFA COMMUNITY CRAFTS FAIR
An alternative fair, distinctly appropriate
to the Bay Area, benefiting the only
listener-sponsored radio station whose
mission is to defend democratic ideals,
promote peace, and encourage cultural
diversity. 220 exceptional craftsmakers &
artists show their own best work in a
spirited ambiance with natural foods from
many cultures, world music & dance
performances & wise speakers 10 am - 6
pm at The Concourse, 8th & Brannan
Streets, San Francisco. \$7 entry, \$5
seniors or disabled, under 17 free.
Free shuttles from 9:30am-6:30pm to &
from the KPFA Fair & Civic Center
BART & Caltrain Station (Bus RRX- call
800.660.4287) Valet Bicycle parking
provided by the S.F. Bicycle Coalition.

Inspiring Stories from Human Rights
Defenders: This special program features
human rights defenders Van Jones and
Harry Wu, whose portraits and inspiring
stories are included in the Speak Truth to
Power exhibition currently on view in the
Jewett Gallery. This program is co-
sponsored by Amnesty International and
the Center for Justice and Accountability.
Main Library, Lower Level, Koret
Auditorium, 3 pm, free.

FAMILY ART WORKSHOP: See 7
Saturday for details.

ANTI-WAR MEETING: BETHANY
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1268 Sanchez Street (at Clipper Street,
near 24th), 2-4 pm, free.

PINOISEPOP: Asian American Music
Festival; price and lineup TBA. CAFE
DU NORD, 2170 Market Street, . 861-
5016

CLARENDON HILLS, The
SKYFLAKES, From MONUMENT to
MASSES, eE, WHYSALL LANE,
Café Du Nord, 2170 Market St, 9:30 pm,
\$6, 18+. 861-5016

BAT MAKUMBA, ELBO ROOM, 647
Valencia, 10 pm, \$7. 552-7788.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR Artesanias,
Jewelry & More, 11am-5pm, Mission
Cultural Center 2868 Mission St, SF
94110 (415) 821-1155

Inherited a rare book or even an entire
library? Whether it's your great
grandparents' family Bible or a 17th
century edition of Shakespeare's collected
plays, bring it to the appraisal clinic at the
San Francisco Main Library, 100 Larkin
Street, Civic Center, 1:00 to 5:00 pm in
the Skylight Gallery on the 6th Floor of
the Main Library. Appraisers from PBA
Galleries will be on hand to evaluate your
old books and maps.

Introduction to Patent Searching -
Examine the patents of previous
inventions to find out if your invention is
really new. Hands-on training on the
seven steps of patent searching. Keyboard
and mouse skills suggested. For more
information, contact the Government
Information Center at 415-557-4500.
SF Main Library, Fifth Floor Training
Center, 3:00 -5:00 pm, free.

15 SUNDAY

SANTA'S BLACK MARKET Counter-
Culture Craft Fair and Cabaret. SF's
favorite crafts fair, featuring over 40 local
artisans and lots of stimulating erotic
entertainment. SomArts Gallery, 934
Brannan (and 8th St.), 2 pm-12 am, \$7
before 7 pm, \$13 after; fully costumed
Santas and Clowns admitted free. 695-
9100.

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(415) 731-5011 EXT. 126
Ricky@sffhomez.com

Mission District Calendar (CONTINUED)

KPFA COMMUNITY CRAFTS FAIR-
See 14 Saturday

DJ SEP and LUDICHRIS, Elbo Room,
647 Valencia, 9 pm, \$5. 552-7788

16 MONDAY

THE MONDAY NIGHT HOOT hosted
by Eric Shea. Cafe Du Nord, 2170 Market
St, 9 pm, \$5. 861-5016

BLACK FRAMES featuring **SKERIK**
and members from Critters Buggin'. Elbo
Room, 647 Valencia, 9 pm, \$8. 552-7788

17 TUESDAY

TUESDAY NIGHT STAGE BAND
HOLIDAY JAZZ CONCERT featuring
Jules Broussard at CCSF, Diego Rivera
Theater, Ocean Avenue Campus, 50
Phelan Avenue. All are welcome to this
FREE event, but come early -- seating is
limited. 8 pm - 10 pm 239-3580

FREE DAY AT LEGION OF HONOR;
See 10 Tuesday for details.

BRAD BROOKS, AUSTIN WILLACY,
JOSH FIX, Cafe Du Nord, 2170 Market
Street, 10 pm, \$5. 861-5016

NOBODY FROM IPANEMA, Elbo
Room, 647 Valencia, 9 pm, \$6. 552-7788.

18 WEDNESDAY

THE PALADINS, SWITCHBLADES.
Elbo Room, 647 Valencia, 9 pm, \$10.
552-7788

19 THURSDAY

PERCUSSION CLASS with Carnaval
Grand Prize Winner Loco Bloco's musical
director Pedro Gomez at Cellspace, 2050
Bryant, 6-7:30 pm, \$7 adults, 12-17 free.
626-5222 ext. 30

THE CUTS, Cafe Du Nord, 2170 Market
St, 10 pm, \$6. 861-5016

JOHN CALLOWAY'S DIASPORA plus
DJ CARLITO'S WAY. Elbo Room, 647
Valencia, 10 pm, \$7. 552-7788

20 FRIDAY

The **SILENT PICTURE SHOW** for
three days only as Bob Mitchell organ-
accompanied silent flicks by Chaplin,
Lloyd, Keaton, Laurel & Hardy, Felix the
Cat, and more. Castro Theater, 8 pm, \$10
ticketweb or \$15 at the door.

LAVAY SMITH AND HER RED HOT
SKILLET LICKERS, Cafe Du Nord,
2170 Market St, 10 pm, \$8. 861-5016

THE B-SIDE PLAYERS. Elbo Room,
647 Valencia, 10 pm, \$8. 552-7788

21 SATURDAY

THE ALUMINUM GROUP, SPOOKY
RUBEN, Cafe Du Nord, 2170 Market St,
10 pm, \$10. 861-5016

SILENT PICTURE SHOW at 8pm. See
20 Friday for details

JESUS DIAZ Y QBA, Elbo Room, 647
Valencia, 10 pm, \$8. 552-778

Children's Christmas Party has
Santa, presents and lunch at Mis-
sion Recreation Center, 745 Treat,
12-2 pm, free.

22 SUNDAY

DJ SEP and MANEESH the TWISTER
plus special guest. Elbo Room, 647
Valencia, 9 pm, \$5. 552-7788

SILENT PICTURE SHOW final
matinee 1 pm at the Castro. See 20 Friday
for details.

MAKE ME FAMOUS,
FIRECRACKERS, Cafe Du Nord, 2170
Market St, 10 pm, \$5. 861-5016

23 MONDAY

MEDICINE BALL BAND, Cafe Du
Nord, 2170 Market St, 10 pm, \$5. 861-
5016

LUKE ALEXANDER. Elbo Room, 647
Valencia, 9 pm, \$5. 552-7788

24 TUESDAY

FREE DAY AT LEGION OF HONOR:
See 10 Tuesday for details.

A MAO DOS ANJOS BRAZILIAN
AFRO-SAMBA PERCUSSION
ENSEMBLE, Elbo Room, 647 Valencia,
9 pm, \$7. 552-7788

25 WEDNESDAY

MERRY CHRISTMAS

26 THURSDAY

LQS COMPAS plus **DJ CARLITO'S**
WAY. Elbo Room, 647 Valencia, 10 pm,
\$7. 552-7788

LEPIS! WITH ANIBADE, Cafe Du
Nord, 2170 Market St, 10 pm, \$8. 861-
5016

27 FRIDAY

LAVAY SMITH AND HER RED HOT
SKILLET LICKERS, Cafe Du Nord,
2170 Market St, 10 pm, \$8. 861-5016

ALO ANIMAL LIBERATION
ORCHESTRA. Elbo Room, 647
Valencia, 10 pm, \$7. 552-7788

28 SATURDAY

RUBBER CURTAIN featuring **TOMMY**
GUERRERO and other DJs and
electronica artists. Cafe Du Nord, 2170
Market St, 10 pm, \$8. 861-5016

PLAYGROUND (live dub) plus **DJ SEP**.
Elbo Room, 647 Valencia, 10 pm, \$6.
552-7788

31 TUESDAY

FREE DAY AT LEGION OF HONOR:
See 10 Tuesday for details.

CHRISTMAS DINNER AND TOY GIVEAWAY!



For the sixth time in as many years, Unity Foundation joins with the SF Department of Parks and Recreation to present the annual Neighborhood Childrens' Christmas Party at the Mission Recreation Center on Saturday, December 21. Santa Claus himself will be distributing presents, many of which were furnished through the generous donations of the Mission Police Station and local laundromat owner Edward Yuen. This event is open to the public and absolutely free of charge. Every child who attends will receive a wrapped toy. All guests may partake of a traditional holiday dinner prepared by the loving hands of Mission Rec's own Margaret Perea and served by helpful neighborhood volunteers. Among the people whose efforts made this event possible are Frank Casinelli, Jerry Velasco, David Rodriguez, Bill McCarthy, Dirk Dirksen, Damon Molloy, Patty Davis and her son, Ian. Mission Recreation Center is located at 745 Treat Avenue, between 20th and 21st Streets. Festivities will be in full swing from noon until 2 pm. See you at the party!

Anyone wishing to help out or contribute toys should call 415-206-1621.

New York Steak Dinner
salad, vegetables & pasta
\$12.95 plus tax

Philly Steak Sandwich
with french fries
\$5.95 plus tax

HOUSE SPECIAL PIZZAS

	SMALL	MEDIUM	LARGE
1. CABLE CAR (COMBO) <i>Salami, Pepperoni, Sausage, Mushroom, Bell Pepper, Onions</i>	11.95	15.75	18.75
2. DOLORES PARK (VEG) <i>Mushroom, Onion, Fresh Tomatoes, Bell Pepper, Black Olives, Garlic</i>	12.30	15.20	19.25
3. FISHERMAN'S WHARF (SEAFOOD) <i>Shrimp, Clam, Garlic</i>	11.35	13.65	15.85
4. NOB HILL (CHICKEN) <i>Chicken, Mushrooms, Sun Dried Tomatoes, Onions</i>	11.75	15.75	17.35
5. MISSION BELL (MEXICAN) <i>Ground Beef, Onions, Fresh Tomatoes, Black Olives, Jalapenos</i>	13.45	16.75	18.65
6. PACIFIC HEIGHTS (ALL MEAT) <i>Ham, Beef, Pepperoni, Canadian Bacon, Sausage, Salami</i>	13.50	16.85	19.95
7. SAN FRANCISCO <i>Artichoke Hearts, Fresh Tomatoes, Garlic, Sausage</i>	10.85	13.45	17.10
8. HAWAIIAN SPECIAL <i>Canadian Bacon, Pineapple</i>	9.95	12.90	14.10
9. ATHENS BY NIGHT (GREEK) <i>Spinach, Feta Cheese, Black Olives, Pesto, Basil</i>	12.10	14.75	17.10
10. VALENCIA SPECIAL <i>Artichoke Hearts, Sun-Dried Tomatoes, Garlic, Black Olives, Zucchini</i>	11.85	13.85	15.85

CABLE CAR PIZZA

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30pc \$14.95 50pc \$21.95
plus tax

Large Pizza
with one topping
PLUS 8 Buffalo Wings
\$16.95 plus tax

PASTA

SPAGHETTI BOLOGNESE	7.75
CHEESE RAVIOLI	8.65
RAVIOLI MEATSAUCE	8.95
ANGEL-FAIR POMORODE	7.65
FETTUCINI ALFREDO	8.75
FETTUCINI PESTO	8.75
FRUTTI DI MARE	10.65
CHICKEN FETTUCINI	9.85
LASAGNA BOLOGNESE	8.95
VEGETARIAN LASAGNA	8.75
LINGUINI CLAMS	9.95
STUFFED MANICOTTI	8.85
TORTELLINI FLORENTINI	9.65

ENTREES

RED SNAPPER	9.65
GRILLED SALMON	10.25
PRAWNS SAUTE	11.25
FRIED PRAWNS	9.85
CHICKEN MARSALA	9.75
CHICKEN PARMIGIANA	9.95
CHICKEN PICATA	10.95
MARINATED GRILLED CHICKEN	8.25
CHICKEN SCALOPPINI	10.95
PEPPERCORN STEAK	12.50
NEW YORK STEAK	11.95

APPETIZERS

MOZZARELLA STICKS	4.50
BUFFALO WINGS	4.85
FRIED CALAMARI	6.25
GARLIC BREAD	2.25

SALADS

CAESAR SALAD	5.95
HOUSE SALAD	3.75
GRILLED CHICKEN CAESAR SALAD	6.75
SHRIMP SALAD	6.25

RISOTTO

CHICKEN RISOTTO <i>Diced chicken with mushrooms, carrots, onions and herbs in rice</i>	8.20
RISOTTO DI FRESCO <i>Fresh vegetables in a primavera sauce and rice</i>	7.50
RISOTTO DE CARNE <i>Steak strips with mushrooms, onion & herbs in rice</i>	8.20
SEAFOOD RISOTTO	8.85

PIZZAS

PLAIN CHEESE	7.95	9.95	12.05
1 TOPPING	8.75	11.15	13.35
2 TOPPINGS	9.85	12.35	14.80
3 TOPPINGS	10.55	13.55	16.25
EACH ADDITIONAL TOPPING	.70	1.00	1.40

LIBRARY LADY



Mission Branch

Girls, girls, girls...

The Holidays and the New Year always bring back memories of my sweet childhood. That being said, I've pulled some new and old books about the biology, socialization and construction of the feminine.

The Wonder of Girls: Understanding the Hidden Nature of Our Daughters

By Michael Gurian

This new book takes a biological approach to explaining why girls behave the way they do. It's an interesting book that tries to explain and understand the biology of girls. Although it's mostly for parents who want to learn about the "hidden nature" of their daughters, anyone with an interest in the nature versus nurture debate will find this book worth looking at.

Odd Girl Out: The Hidden Culture of Aggression in Girls

By Rachel Simmons

Maybe you heard about this book on NPR? It's an interesting topic about the hidden culture of aggression in girls. Do you think girls are crueler than boys? This book says they can be.

Queen Bees and Wannabes: Helping Your Daughter Survive Cliques, Gossip, Boyfriends, and Other Realities of Adolescence

By Rosalind Wiseman

Wiseman's parenting book focuses on the tough adolescent years of girls. This book is more self-help than theory. If anything, it reiterates the cruelty found in the teenage years of girlhood. For that, it's an interesting tidbit of social analysis.

Fast Girls: Teenage Tribes and the Myth of the Slut

By Emily White

The myth of the fallen woman goes way back. It's generally used to facilitate and perpetuate the nuclear family. But outcast women are powerful. This book talks about the stereotype of the "fallen woman" and the strength and power women's sexuality has in a society that often feels threatened by such things.

Bitch: In Praise of Difficult Women

By Elizabeth Wurtzel

Vamps: An Illustrated History of the Femme Fatale

By Pam Keeseey

These two older books take the idea of the independent, strong woman one step further and examine the idea of the vixen. If these suggestions don't satisfy, or if they whet your appetite, sit down with Camille Paglia or check out some classic Film Noir. You can find both at your local branch.

In the Children's Room we always have programs for girls (and boys) of all ages:

Family Storytime in Spanish

— Every Saturday at 12 noon
— Infant/Toddler Lapsit, Bilingual
— Thursdays at 11 am.

Preschool Storytime

— Thursdays at 10:10 am.

Children's Holiday Party

Light refreshments, fun and short craft
-- Wednesday, December 11 at 6:30 pm.

Come in, say hello and ask us for assistance; we'll be more than happy to help you find the perfect book for pleasure, show you how to do research for school or help you gather information for your own personal interest.

The Library Lady at the Mission Branch. Email me with questions or comments! librarylady@sfpl.org

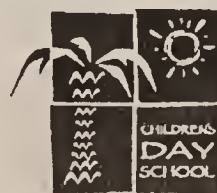


Meet a couple of our best teachers.



At Children's Day School, we believe in giving kids the room and inspiration to grow. That's why we provide our preschoolers through fifth graders with one of the largest outdoor school spaces in San Francisco, filled with farm animals and an enchanting organic garden. It's the perfect setting for an educational program that is project-based, integrated across academic disciplines and grounded in the concept of social responsibility. Our curriculum instills a passion for learning and fosters an attitude of care for self, for others, for ideas and for the environment.

We invite you to meet our dedicated team of educators. To schedule a tour and to find out about our sliding scale tuition, call Aimee Giles at 415-861-5432.



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Extra! Extra! Extra!

Sign up for Journalism Courses at City College This Spring!

Journalism Schedule for Spring 2003

Jour 19: Contemporary News Media M/W/F 9-10am Phelan Campus ART #308
Introduction to modern mass communication, with an emphasis on development of news media, analysis of the credibility of the media, and its effect on daily life.

Jour 21: News Writing and Reporting Th 6:30-9:30pm 1800 Market St/#306
Techniques of newspaper reporting, developing and writing a news story, training in information gathering and interviewing news sources.

Jour 22: Feature Writing M 6:30-9:45pm 1800 Market St/#306
Writing for magazines and newspapers with an emphasis on profiles and human interest stories. Experience in interview and in-depth research techniques. Training how to free-lance a story.

Jour 23: Electronic Copy Editing T 7:00-10:00pm Phelan Campus LIBR #209
Learn to edit newspapers, magazines and web sites for accuracy, style and organization.

Jour 24: Newspaper Laboratory M/W/F 12-1pm Phelan Campus BNGL#209
Advanced newspaper laboratory focused on the publication of the college paper, The Guardsman.

Jour 27: Newspaper Design/Pagination W 7:00-10:00pm Phelan Campus BNGL#209
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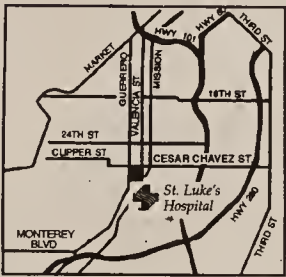
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HEALTH MATTERS



Richard Pitt

MERCURY ON THE RISE

An article in the *New York Times Magazine* on November 10 has raised many eyebrows. It explores the possible link between mercury and the growing number of autistic children in America. Concern over the amount of mercury in our bodies has been growing for years and, as this article reveals, one of the major ways this has occurred is through vaccination. Many of the common childhood vaccines, including DPT (Diphtheria, Pertussis and Tetanus), Hepatitis B and Meningitis contain thimerosal, a form of a mercury compound called methyl mercury. Although the amounts used seem to be miniscule, medical authorities are now considering the possibility that the accumulative effect of mercury in vaccines is a factor in the increase in autism. Enough concern has been created for the pharmaceutical companies to begin eliminating thimerosal from certain vaccines. Also, in June 2000, a number of medical groups, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, recommended the removal of thimerosal. A Committee on Government Reform then conducted a hearing entitled "Mercury in Medicine: Are We Taking Unnecessary Risks." During the meeting, the FDA (Food and Drug Administration) admitted that children are being exposed to unsafe levels of mercury through vaccines containing thimerosal. Underlying much of the scientific debate are the political and financial consequences of American vaccine policy. If it is found that mercury has definitely been a factor in causing autism, then vaccine manufacturers and the government could be held legally responsible. There have been attempts in the last year to pass bills exonerating vaccine manufacturers from legal responsibility for vaccine damage, even though they already enjoy some immunity from individual liability. This has culminated in a rider slipped into the Homeland Security Bill exempting vaccine manufacturers from liability for any damage from any vaccines. The mercury controversy does not stop with vaccines. For many years, the use of mercury in dental fillings has been questioned, with effective gag orders on dentists discussing the issue, and there is ample scientific evidence of the risk in eating deep-sea fish, due to environmental mercury toxicity. The FDA recommends only eating so many ounces of fish a week, and

for pregnant women to be especially cautious. As with other heavy metals such as lead, it is clear that exposure in relatively small amounts can lead to developmental damage, and that the people most vulnerable are babies in the womb and young children. It is becoming increasingly clear that, whilst evidence accumulates linking mercury to autism and other conditions, vaccine manufacturers, dental organizations and others are fighting a rear-guard action, denying any link until they can escape legal responsibility. In light of the evidence now being discussed, why is there a movement to give young babies and pregnant women the flu vaccine, which has thimerosal in it? Thimerosal has not been removed from all vaccines, including that given for flu. Only two to three years ago, the vaccine was only recommended to those at risk from complications of the flu, predominantly the elderly. Now, it is being given routinely to virtually everybody. In the last few years, the number of vaccines for children has already increased from 8 to 20. What is the rationale and where is the scientific data to justify another one? Also, what are the long-term risks to adults who have yearly flu injections containing thimerosal and other toxic substances? Nobody really knows. Although the official policy is to give the vaccine only to high-risk babies susceptible to other diseases such as asthma, the vaccine is being given routinely to many other children. The recommendation for pregnant women to get the vaccine is equally questionable, and no adequate studies have been conducted to monitor safety for mother and child. Even the CDC (Center for Disease Control) has admitted "additional data are needed to confirm the safety of vaccine during pregnancy." From a common sense point of view, young babies are not at risk from the flu, especially when healthy and when being breast-fed. It is ironic that, as manufacturers are taking thimerosal out of some vaccines, doctors are now giving another vaccine that contains thimerosal, a vaccine with a dubious record of protecting against the flu, and which for young children is very questionable and possibly very dangerous.

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PET OF THE MONTH

CHLOE



I'm Chloe, a four-year-old, tan and white German Shepherd mix. I'm a sweet, 71-pound girl with a super personality who would make a great addition to your family.

I may look big, but once I lose a few pounds, I'll be svelte. I enjoy lying around and watching TV, but I'd be happy to go for long walks and play ball with you. I have puppy-like enthusiasm for life, but at four years of age, I'm a nice mature gal. I'm way less demanding than a puppy. I don't need as much exercise and training as a young dog, although I'd love to brush up on my obedience skills at a dog training class. There's a little scar on my chest because I recently had surgery to remove a tumor. The doctors have given me the okay, but I'm looking for a very special home because the tumors may come back. If they do, I'll need more operations. As a result of my medical history, I'd rather not go to the dog park. My idea of fun is a walk smelling the flowers and then some quiet couch time. In return for your love and understanding, I'll give you oodles and oodles of affection. So if you have a big, caring heart and room in your life for a special dog, please consider loving me. If you are interested in adopting me, come visit me at the San Francisco SPCA, 2500 16th Street, San Francisco, CA 94103, 415-554-3000, www.sfspca.org.

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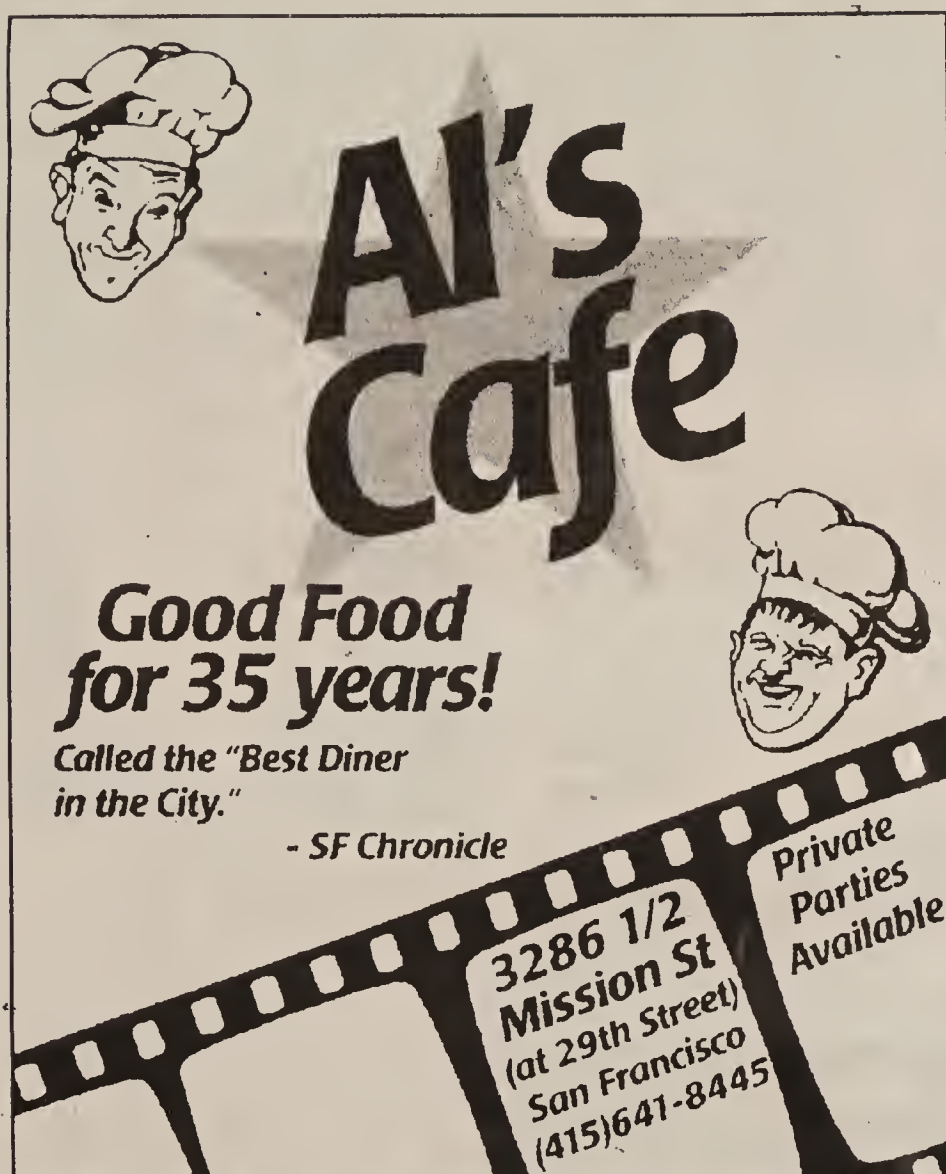
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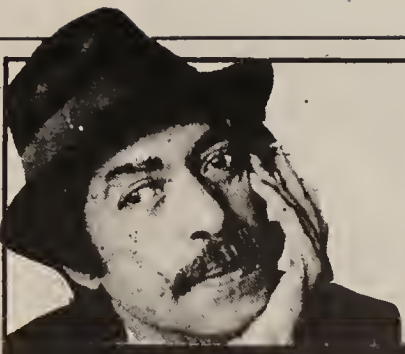
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Wednesday, December 4th at 7:30 pm JUSTICE MATTERS INSTITUTE: ELECTORAL POLITICS An ongoing community discussion group.	Thursday, December 12th at 7:30 pm ERIC DROOKER: BLOOD SONG The latest graphic novel from this art-activist.
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Alfonso Texidor

POEM OF THE MONTH

POSTCARD by Elz Desmangles

June 15, 1920

Duluth, Minnesota

A photo postcard of young Elias Trousers held only by the forwardness of his exposed pelvic bone Heavy trousers, weighed down by gravity itself.

His black skin so dark, it reflects light where shadows could be.

Hands behind his back, stories I'll never know Shoulders resting, jutting his naked chest towards my regretful self.

His beautiful body sways with the Earth's breath No longer his own.

Alluring, the crowd of best citizens can't look away Especially the accusing woman herself.

Still Elias is tall Stretched high towards the clouds (Clouds that watched, but could do nothing amongst themselves.) He humbles the tree behind him.

Hardened limbs, calluses, fleshy scars swing freely

By the rope tied around his neck.

And to his left, a pretty little blonde girl smiles into the camera.



Elz Desmangles

A San Francisco native, Elz Desmangles has been writing all her life. Her works include a collection of sonnets and a musical entitled *Isa*, which she co-produced while attending U.C. Berkeley. She also co-produced, with local poet Ramu Aki, a spoken word and music CD, *Urbanthology*. The CD features over 30 spoken word artists, musicians, singers and songwriters. Aside from running *Poetry Mission Thursdays at DALVA*, an open mike poetry venue on 16th St @ Valencia St, Elz is also the programming coordinator for KCBS Radio.

Rezoning Process Enters New Stage

After a year of community meetings sponsored by the SF Planning Department and other activities planned by the Mission Anti-displacement Coalition (MAC), the Planning Department has narrowed down its options to rezoning the Mission into 3 broad alternatives: Alternative A calls for rezoning the entire Northeast Mission for housing without any consideration for loss of industrial land; Alternative B proposes continued protection of industrial land as well as promoting construction of new housing in appropriate areas in the Northeast Industrial Zone; Alternative C proposes no change and protection of all industrial land with no new housing.

MAC has also developed its own alternative – the People's Plan – based on many surveys, focus groups, and meetings with hundreds of residents of this community.

According to MAC member Eric Quezada, the next step in the planning process is to start an environmental review. This process, which is required by the California Environmental Quality Act, takes 12-18 months and will examine the environmental impacts the rezoning will have on the Mission District and the City. The first stage in this procedure is to assure that the funds are available to hire a city-approved consultant to begin researching and writing the report. At various stages of the process, there are public hearings to delineate its scope and to comment on issues related to the Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

MAC has been committed to organizing community input and participation in this important process, to push the People's Plan through so that it becomes adopted as the new zoning laws. To that end, MAC will organize its own impact report to assess the effects all the proposed changes will produce in the Mission. "The EIR traditionally only looks at the physical impact a project or policy will have on the community... MAC will augment the report by expanding the scope to include social, economic and cultural impacts that will affect the people who live here," says Quezada.

"The People's Plan represents the Mission District's demands for social, environmental and economic justice in the areas of land use and community development," added Quezada. The Plan focuses on creating opportunities for affordable housing along the commercial corridors, and creating housing in the North East Mission Industrial Zone that is compatible with working-class jobs and businesses. The plan also addresses commercial and neighborhood areas and calls for greater community input on future change.

One of the main challenges the Mission will face is the length of the EIR process. Since the process takes 12 months or more, the Mission Interim Controls will expire during the process. This means the

return of the old rules that were abused by developers. MAC is currently asking the Planning Department and Board of Supervisors to address this issue by creating temporary policies to govern development until there are permanent controls in place based on the needs of the entire community. MAC is looking at methods to institute legislation to cover the gap between the Interim Controls and the implementation of the People's Plan. They were told that the Planning Department is working on this, but are unsure of how much power that legislation will have.

In November, MAC held an accountability session with Supervisors Tom Ammiano and Chris Daly to secure commitments to all the things that need to occur for the EIR to start and to implement the People's Plan. They were excited that they were able to get the Supervisors' commitment to support their requests.

MAC made 3 essential demands: (1) Secure funding for the EIR. (2) Start the hiring process for the EIR consultant now. (3) Allow community input into the scope of the EIR: in other words, to allow the community to help define the human impacts that should be analyzed when the EIR considers potential harmful effects to the neighborhood, and to have the EIR cover elements of the People's Plan. Ammiano introduced a request from the Planning Department at a meeting of the Board of Supervisors to estimate the cost of a Mission EIR, in order to begin the process to secure funding. [Residents will be needed for the finance meeting when it comes up].

The main vocal opposition to the People's Plan comes from a group of landlords, conservative business owners, and others who formed a small coalition, attempting to undermine the community planning process with misinformation and scare tactics. The coalition hired the well-known union busting firm of Barnes, Mosher, Whitehurst, Lauter & Partners to lobby the Board of Supervisors to vote against extending the controls, and another firm of lawyers to threaten a lawsuit against the controls.

But the pressure tactics failed to sway the Supervisors. In July 2002 they voted 9-2 to extend the controls for 12 more months. Marina District Supervisor Gavin Newsom and Sunset District Supervisor Tony Hall were the only ones who voted against them. Special mention should be made of Supervisor McGoldrick [head of the land-use committee] who spoke eloquently in favor of the controls and the Mission community, which has suffered so much during the past five years due to gentrification, displacement and evictions - McGoldrick pledged his support to implement the EIR.

"The next year promises to be challenging and exciting for the Mission District," said Quezada. And he added, "This past year MAC and its Peoples Plan had great success in bringing hundreds of residents into the planning process... most of the community's ideas will be included in the EIR process and our plan has lots of community support... We will be celebrating our success at a community celebration on January 10, 2003." For info call MAC/PODER at (415) 431-4210.

Mission Day Laborers' Saga Continues

The San Francisco Day Labor Program and the Women's Collective are two non-profit projects of La Raza Centro Legal, an immigrants' rights organization based in the Mission District. They were created by a group of day laborers, neighbors and community advocates to provide a dignified alternative way to seek work; a venue in which day laborers – some of the most exploited workers in the City – could educate and empower themselves.

After more than 10 years, they are still lobbying City Hall to obtain adequate quarters for the program, which is housed in two rickety, old, narrow trailers that have no heat, no running water or bathroom facilities, nor any other amenities or niceties to speak of. As if exiled in limbo on a hilltop in the middle of Franklin Square Park, bounded by 16th St, Bryant St and 17th St, the two trailers are located over a mile from where the day laborers congregate to seek work in open-air areas all along the Cesar Chavez Street (Army St) corridor. They still do not have adequate space for their English classes, counseling, or leadership training.

Armed with traffic studies, neighbor surveys and reports on the programs needs, the day laborers went to the Planning Commission for permission to use a building on Cesar Chavez St where they could provide their job placement services and community empowerment programs. The Mayor's office claims that the day laborers shouldn't be seeking work in that area, alleging that if the program were to be situated there, it would dramatically increase traffic congestion, that it wouldn't fit the needs of the program, and that neighbors are against it (even though the program specializes in dispatching workers to jobsites, thereby actually reducing traffic on Cesar Chavez St). Privately, they say that when the Planning Commission stalls about whether or not the day laborers should get to move out of their trailers, it is in the best interests of the workers and the neighborhood.

Day laborers, worker advocates, community service providers, allies and supportive neighbors are still waiting. They say that the struggle isn't about traffic control – it's a fight to determine whether low-income people, immigrants, people of color, and single parents have the right a space of their own in the place where they've chosen to congregate. It's a fight for land, for legitimacy, over whether day laborers are recognized as workers, and it's a struggle to reaffirm their rights and human dignity. They say that the community is sick and tired of seeing the Planning Commission drag its feet and offer wimpy excuses.

The Day Labor Program invites supporters to voice their concerns at upcoming meetings at City Hall.

For info, call (415) 252- 5375.

Show, Exhibit and Holiday Bazaar

Saturday, December 14th, 2002

End of Semester Performance and Recital: 3-6PM

Student Exhibit in the Inti-Raymi Gallery: 11AM-5PM
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January 2003 Exhibition

Dreams of Resistance

Sueños de Resistencia

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Reception: Friday, January 17, 7-9pm, \$3

This is a special exhibit open to community artists who want to express how they are feeling about War, Peace and the current times we are now facing as a nation. January 20, is Martin Luther King, Jr. day and MCCLA would like to dedicate this exhibition in his honor.

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Poster by Rene Castro

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La Post-Modern Curandera by Resurrección Coyoltzin Cruz

SET YOUR SPIRIT FREE...

Dear Curandera,

I'm finally feeling the magic in the season, but it seems to tire me. I have been feeling tired a lot lately. I'm not sure if it's the season or spiritual work I've been involved in, but my pep is pooped. Can you recommend a pick-me-up?

-Patti

Dear Patti,

We often forget that spiritual work takes a lot out of us. Those pooped feelings are how you know your rituals are working. Try to pace yourself with the season's activities and especially the spiritual work. Make sure you have time for rest (and eating!) afterwards. For a pick-me-up, try a limpia: Scrub yourself with fresh herbs (this can be done over your clothes), starting from the top of your head to your feet, then dispose of the herbs in a place where they can decompose naturally and go back to the earth. For invigorating limpias, use a combination of mint, eucalyptus leaves, basil, and perhaps rosemary for health and luck. If you're feeling too tired to do it yourself, a friend with energy to spare can do the scrubbing for you. Season's greetings!

Dear Curandera:

Our house is old, and sometimes I hear noises and creaking, and someone walking. I think it's a ghost. I don't mind it being here. I just don't like it when I am alone. Is there anything I can do about it?

-Live Inhabitant

Dear LI:

A ghost is usually the spirit of someone who has died, but has not moved on. This spirit is trapped between the world of the living and the dead. This could be because the person doesn't know she is dead, or was for one of many reasons, not ready to die. These ghosts are made up of energy and can manifest as sounds, take the form of scents or sensations, or even visual images.

These souls are often confused and unhappy. It is believed they haven't moved on because they left something on this side undone, or they died unprepared for death. Learning the reason is beyond

the scope of this column. However, you can help this spirit make the transition to other side, and it would be a major act of charity on your part. It would also help you feel more comfortable in your home. There are any number of ways you can do this, depending on how much you feel up to, capable of, and how severe the haunting.

RITUAL FOR RELEASING A SPIRIT FROM YOUR HOUSE:

First, burn a white candle for seven days. If there is one particular room where you think the ghost is, do it in this room. The candle is to acknowledge the spirit(s) in your house and light their way to the other side. If you want, you can also burn a sweet combination of angelica root and cinnamon for releasing the spirits, with sage for respect and protection--both yours and theirs. Take this burning combination through all the rooms of the house, and then open the doors and windows. This will also cleanse your house at the same time. Hopefully this will solve the problem.

Another good remedy for ridding a house of unwanted spiritual presence is to think of the most left-brained, unimaginative and, most importantly, non-superstitious person you know, and invite him/her over. If s/he can spend the night, so much the better. The energy of these people will drive spirits--good and bad--right out of your house.

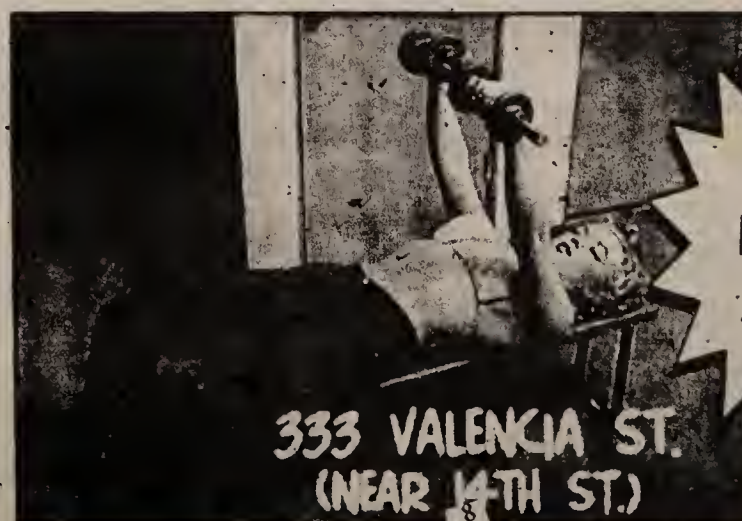
You can also try putting rubber bands around your doorknob. This especially works to keep the spirits away once they've been sent on. Although I used to do this, I removed them after my cat died because she would come back sometimes to visit, and I wanted her always to feel welcome.

La Post-Modern Curandera is by Resurreccion Cruz, author of *Santora, The Good Daughter* (Xipactli Publishing), available at Modern Times Books, Bernal Books and Barnes & Noble.com.

If you have spiritual or health questions that aren't being addressed by your religious and medical establishments, you can e-mail Rez directly at: lacurandera@earthmonsterbooks.com.

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Sonny Smith

STEPPIN' OUT

WHY DOES "FAT" CARRY SO MUCH WEIGHT?

I've received my first angry complaint letter to my column and it is, in fact, a good one. In some ways. It has a few complaints I find valid, and a few I find misguided. To fill you in... last month I wrote a bit of an extended rant on what you might call 'oh so poignant modern Americana moments.' In the end, I accused America of breeding a rather scary citizen: a violent, brainwashed, uneducated, even stupid, overweight citizen. Except instead of saying 'overweight' I said 'fat'. And 'fat' is a loaded word. Well, this word 'fat' caught the eye of one fine citizen by the name of Jacks, and this concerned citizen didn't like the use of the word 'fat.' To explain why, I hereby include Jacks's letter for the sake of fair public debate:

"The November issue of our neighborhood paper, *The New Mission News*, has a writer named sonny smith. He begins his article whining about the boredom of attending art gallery openings and performance art. (All the while bragging about chugging down four glasses of free wine. He goes on to blather about driving to Baker Beach, drunk, and wandering onto government property in a "nice trance." He and his friends are stopped by military and held at gunpoint. They are interrogated for more than an hour and released (hopefully, sober enough to drive) Once again, in his car, he continues to rant about violence in America and a "beggar in the median" (???). Finally, to top off his obviously extreme annoyance at having to put up with his depressing life, he lets FAT people have it. Why is it so many times, when ordinary people get pissed off, they blame it on Fat people? Never mind, don't we know? Alright, enough of the introduction. Following is the quote from the last half of the last paragraph (the word FAT is emphasized by me): 'We are a nation of insane people. Also a nation of mostly stupid people. Not just ignorant, but actually stupid. Not only ignorant and stupid, but the bulk of us brainwashed. Seriously, most of Americans are brainwashed and usually FAT. Not to mention quite violent, and one not-so-good excuse away from killing someone. Insane, ignorant, stupid, brainwashed, FAT violent killers is what America is mostly made up of. Can you go outside and then really argue with me?' Please, email and/or call NMN. Although it has a small circulation, many missionites love this newspaper and rely on it for information regarding our neighborhood. The NMN has a reputation for witty sarcasm as in "silicon satan," etc. However, this guy, sonny smith, is mean-spirited all the way 'round, which has not been the reputation of the NMN. Thanks, one FAT American, Jacks"

Dear Jacks,

Thank you for your concerned response. I think you misinterpreted my last words, and I think you had good reason to, because my use of the word 'fat' was unsubstantiated by the rest of the article, unlike my use of the words violent, brainwashed, ignorant and stupid. There was no set-up for the use of the word 'fat.' I'll also concede that to list 'fat' as a negative thing is to target innocent people, unlike listing violent people or brainwashed people, which does not target the innocent. On the other hand, the growing problem of obesity in this country is a negative trend. And it ought to be mentioned.

Yes, I accused Americans of becoming 'fat,' among other negative accusations. Nevertheless, (and here's the crux of the argument, I believe), accusing Americans of becoming fat is not the same as blaming the woes of America on fat people. Don't you think? They're two different things. It would indeed be ludicrous and mean-spirited to blame America's problems on overweight people, and I would deserve to receive many more protest letters. But I didn't say that.

That's about all I have to say in defense of my article. Now we've both aired our views in the public forum, albeit a small neighborhood one, and readers can decide for themselves whether they think I'm wrong or you're wrong. As for the rest of your characterizations, like 'mean-spirited,' 'whining,' 'bored' (I was surely not bored!), or assumptions that I was 'drunk' or driving drunk, or that I was 'bragging,' 'blathering' or 'depressed,' well, I suggest that these are simply exaggerated negative interpretations brought on by your own emotional reaction to my use of the word FAT.

Now that that's out of the way, this seems like a grand time to try and break down just why being overweight is such a sensitive matter. The occurrence of obesity in America is, at the very least, an indication of a society with a hefty load of problems, just as huge SUVs barreling down the road with drivers engaged in cell phone conversations can be an indication of a larger problem, or a mendicant begging for change on the skinny median of a six-lane thoroughfare, obviously in need of psychiatric help (not to mention a place to live) can be an indication of a larger problem, or the way an over-zealous soldier holding folks at gunpoint can be an indication of a larger problem.

Furthermore, the general occurrence of obesity is just as important as many of our other problems, like ignorance, or our tendency towards violence, or our inability

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to face perhaps America's worst problem, racism, or our crime industry, or our prison industry, or our delusional fantasy that America represents freedom and peace across the planet, or our apathy towards education, or many other social ills I didn't even have room to mention in that column or this one.

Why is it just as important? Well, not even mentioning the emotional or psychological or sociological reasons for weight gain, could it be we're getting overweight because there are toxins in our food? Because the way we now grow our food is disgusting and unhealthy? Might we be getting fat because of the chemicals in our food? The use of hormones? Because the practices employed in producing our food are chosen only for the sake of profit? Are not these practices tied in with our political system? Are they not part of 'free enterprise run amok,' and symptomatic of big business' corporate greed? Has all this not become a class issue at this point? When a modern-day American's stock portfolio might contain shares in a company that manufactures insulin alongside shares in Coca Cola, is it such a logical leap to speak of 'creating the disease and selling the cure?' Could all this be indicative of a problem with the way monetary interests run our society? Does it not suggest that we have a grave problem on our hands? It's too bad fat carries so much weight these days, but it does, doesn't it?

And why is being fat such a sensitive issue? Should we investigate that? Does it have to do with our media and our entertainment industry? And what is the main thrust and focus of the entertainment/media industry? Is it to entertain? To be artistic? To educate? To report? To investigate? Of course not: it's to make money. They show us images of slender, 'beautiful' people, and then they sell us a 'diet' cola after making us feel bad about the shape of our own bodies. When I see floods of children coming out of a grade school around 3 pm, and more than half of them are overweight, well... there's meaning behind it. There's an inhumane, capitalistic greed behind it. And a society that cares more about a fast buck than about the health of its children is sick and ought to be 'ranting' about.

Jacks, it's been fun. Thank you for your letter, and my apologies again. I'd be happy to continue this dialogue, but I've run out of space in this column. I've included my e-mail address at the bottom for you or anyone else who'd like to reply. I hope, in the spirit of fair debate, that you send this letter to the folks on your e-mail list like you did the last one, but unlike the last one you sent, you send my words unaltered and in context.

Sincerely,
Sonny Smith
onetonpig@hotmail.com

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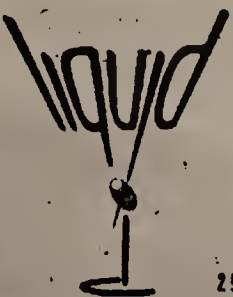
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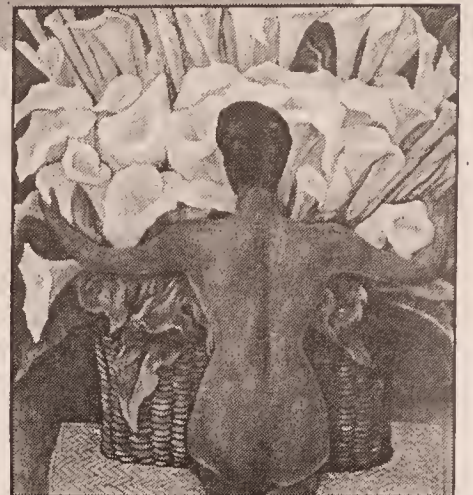
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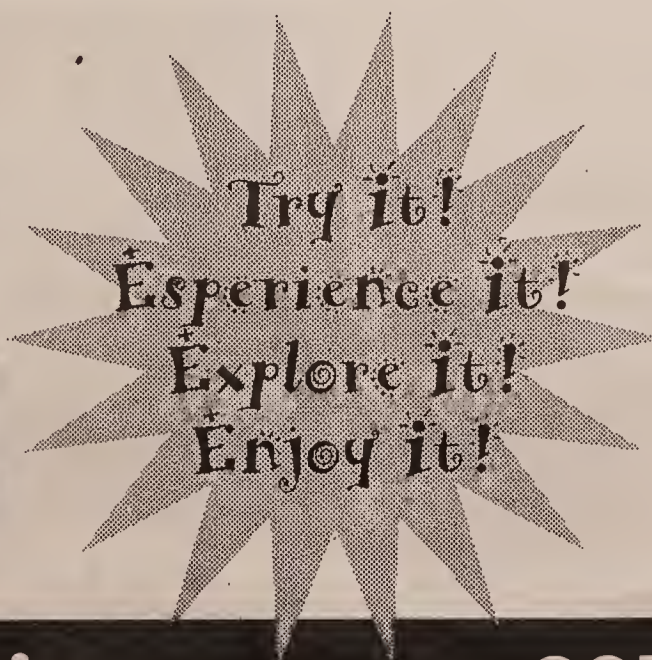
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